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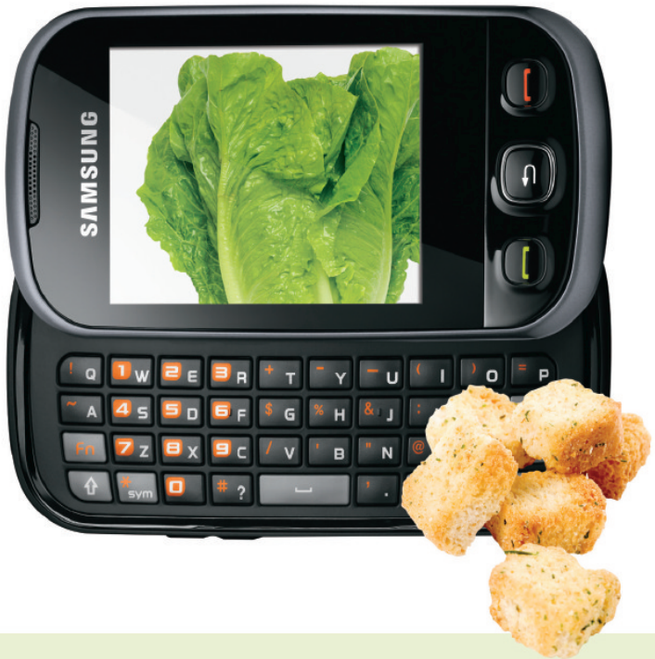

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NINE YEARS ON, SHE'S STILL COOKIN'
MORE GOODIES IN RAY'S LATEST {page 28}

TAIL 'ER
WHO'S BEEN SPOTTED OUT WITH SWIFT? {page 21}

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Solar. Parking

▶ Carli Edwards, parking engineer for the City of Vancouver, tries out her credit card on one of the new parking meters on Granville Street yesterday.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

Sun-powered meters unveiled

The city has installed 300 solar-powered parking meters that accept credit cards, allow users to park for up to four hours during non-peak hours and refuse payment when parking is prohibited. Story page 4.

Vancouverites share their fears

Crawling critters, clowns make blood run cold {page 6}

Canucks down Avs in overtime

Mason Raymond scores winner against Colorado {page 32}

Surrey's crime rate at 10-year low

▶ Property crime is also the lowest it's been since 2000 ▶ Violent crime at its lowest since 2004 ▶ Surrey mayor says statistics a boost to city's image

Surrey — once dubbed the car-theft capital of North America — can now boast a crime rate that's the lowest it's been in a decade.

Crime in B.C.'s second largest city has gone down every year since 2003, according to numbers released yesterday by the RCMP.

Const. Peter Neily said active surveillance of known criminals and partnerships with community programs like the Bait Car program has played a large role in a steady decrease in all crimes.

"It's a small percentage of the population responsible for a large percentage of the crime and we actively target those individuals," he said.

"Having said that, we're not just out there arresting people. We're also engaging (youth) ... and getting them to be leaders."

Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts said the findings show that the city's and RCMP's crime-reduction strategies are paying off.

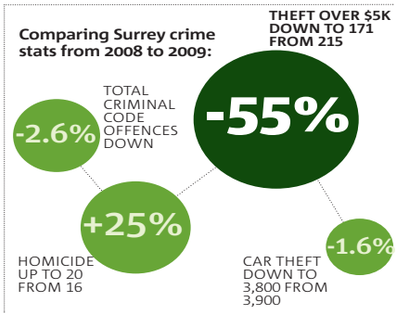
"That's not to say we don't have little blips as we go along, but with our crime analysts we can get on top of that really quickly."

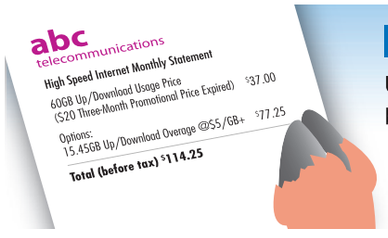
Watts added the statistics help dilute stereotypes that Surrey is unsafe.

"We have to look at what is perception and reality," Watts said. "(People) have looked at one area (of Surrey) and equated that with the entire city.

"We have 1,000 people a month moving in to the city and people are choosing to raise their families here. Any city of half-a-million people, you're going to have issues as you grow and we're not different."

KRISTEN THOMPSON





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Amazon 23-Night Cruise — from USD $3599 + taxes & fees USD $143

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Sun Peaks 6 Nights + Ski Passes — from $499 + taxes & fees $65

INCLUDES 4-star accom in the heart of Sun Peaks Village with 4-day lift tickets.

Big White 6 Nights + Ski Passes — from $589 + taxes & fees $76

INCLUDES accom with full kitchen, in-suite laundry & 4-day lift tickets at Big White and Silver Star.

Whistler Blackcomb
6 Nights + Ski Passes — from $599 + taxes & fees $78

INCLUDES accom with full kitchen, in-suite laundry, 4-day lift tickets.

Revelstoke
5 Nights + Ski Passes — from $669 + taxes & fees $87

INCLUDES accom with full kitchen, in-suite laundry & 3-day lift tickets.

Golf Vacations

Scottsdale
Golf Special
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from **$799**
+ taxes & fees $125

INCLUDES 4-star accom, 4-day car rental with unlimited mileage, 3 rounds of golf per person & breakfast. Price per person based on quad occupancy.

San Diego Golf Special
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $769 + taxes & fees $123

INCLUDES unlimited golf or one spa service per person, per day.

USA

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights
from **$249**
+ taxes & fees $108

INCLUDES accom on the Strip.
UPGRADE to 4-star from $24 per night.

Anaheim New Year's Family Special
Air + 4 Nights — from $499◊ + taxes & fees $118

INCLUDES accom close to theme parks with breakfast over the New Year weekend. Price per person based on family of 4. **BOOK** this package based on double occupancy from $569 plus taxes.

Hawai'i Air + 7 Nights — from $629 + taxes & fees $100

INCLUDES Waikiki accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-Star from $58 per day.

New York Air + 4 Nights — from $749 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES Manhattan accom.

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Disneyland Hotel
Family Special
Air + 3 Nights — from $529◊◊ + taxes & fees $111

INCLUDES 3 nights at *Disneyland* Hotel. **ADD** 4-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* Bonus Ticket from $212 adult / $180 child. **BOOK** this package based on double occupancy for $859 per person plus taxes.

Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa Family Special
Air + 3 Nights — from $559◊◊ + taxes & fees $111

INCLUDES 3 nights at *Disney's Grand Californian Hotel* & Spa. **ADD** 4-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* Bonus Ticket from $212 adult / $180 child. **BOOK** this package based on double occupancy for $869 per person plus taxes.

Disneyland

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Toronto Air + 4 Nights — from $568 + taxes & fees $155

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HST question due out in November

B.C. taxpayers will see the draft version of the HST referendum question as soon as the chief electoral officer has written it, said Mike de Jong yesterday.

The attorney general expects to receive the draft question from chief electoral officer Craig James in two to three weeks.

"As soon as I do, I'll release it to the public," de Jong said.

"Next spring, when the house convenes, we'll submit that to the assembly."

TOM FLETCHER/BLACK PRESS

BLACK PRESS

▶ Attorney General Mike de Jong

Couple faces pet ban after cruelty

A Chilliwack couple has been banned from owning animals for five years and fined $300 each, after abandoning their two dogs and a pony when they moved from their home, according to the B.C. SPCA.

Bob and Brandie Ganzeveld pleaded guilty to animal cruelty.

METRO

Burrard. Gateway

▶ An artist rendering of the proposed project from the Burrard Street Bridge.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Project looks up — way up

The proposed $500-million Burrard Gateway project, by Reliance Properties and Jim Pattison Developments, would see three large towers, including one at 48 storeys, constructed near the north end of the Burrard Bridge. The location is one of six in Vancouver where building heights can exceed the maximum.

Telus targets the LGBTQ set

▶ Caya is first queer-targeted store of its kind in Canada, maybe the world: Project director ▶ Another store is planned for Water Street in Gastown

SARAH N. FITZGERALD
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

A new cellphone store near Davie Village aimed at Vancouver's queer community is garnering divided reactions after opening its doors last week.

Its name is Caya — come as you are — and it's been designed by, and for, members of the LGBTQ community.

"I think it's awesome," said Amanda Langstroth.

"It brings more awareness to people and businesses; just because we're ... part of the queer community, that doesn't mean that we don't (behave) just like everybody else."

But not everyone in the LGBTQ community is in agreement.

"The queer community works so hard just to be included and seen as the norm," said Jen Cole.

"I feel like this is (singling out those in the community), we're not doing it on our own."

Kenn Hamlin, special projects director for Telus, the company behind Caya, said the LGBTQ community — both within and outside the company — welcomes a store that has the community's interests at heart.

Caya, and what it stands for, extends the company's philosophy of diversity, said Hamlin, who added that Telus has offered same-sex benefits to its employees for over 15 years.

1 news

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Allan Small says investor eyes should be on China, not the U.S. Federal Reserve. More at metronews.ca/investing

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DOWNTOWN PARKING

Shedding light on easier payment

Parking on Vancouver's busiest streets has become a bit easier thanks to 300 new solar-powered meters that accept direct credit card payments.

The machines — which have been installed along South Granville and in parts of downtown — allow users to park for up to four hours on weekends, and notify users when parking is prohibited.

Isabel Bennett used a new meter for the first time yesterday, and said the direct credit card payment option is more convenient than calling in.

But she added it would be nice if the machine displayed prices for each quarter hour.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

Fireworks show to get 1,000-seat bleachers?

The Vancouver Park Board is looking at possibly putting up bleachers during next year's Celebration Of Light fireworks shows.

The seating, which would accommodate 1,000 spectators, would be added to the VIP area.

METRO

Man survives 18-metre plunge

A man was rushed to hospital yesterday after falling 18 metres down an elevators shaft in a Burnaby high rise.

The man survived the fall but his condition and identity were not known at press time.

METRO

Embrace the edgy, supermodel suggests

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

▶ Stacey McKenzie shows off her edgy autumn outfit in Yaletown yesterday.

Experiment and don't be afraid to be different: Stacey McKenzie

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

If there's one thing supermodel Stacey McKenzie wants Vancouver ladies to do this fall, it's to be bold and daring with their fashion.

Actually, two things — get rid of the Uggs.

Metro sat down with the homegrown model, actress and Canada's Next Top Model guest judge in Yaletown yesterday to talk fashion.

"I have this thing for edgy (style)," said McKenzie, who was sporting a pleated, hooded leather cape festooned with asymmetrical buckles.

"Go out of your comfort zone. Fashion is supposed to be fun."

McKenzie suggested offsetting bolder outfits with "essential pieces" — basics with staying power like a classic camel coat, knit sweater dress and simple stilettos.

She added it's worth investing in quality staples like shoes and coats.

As for her own wardrobe, if there were a fire and she could only grab one thing it would be her gold bangles — gifts from her mother.

"I wear them all the time," she said.

"Go out of your comfort zone. Fashion is supposed to be fun."
STACEY MCKENZIE, SUPERMODEL

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3185 Grandview Highway
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London Drugs
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How to freak out Vancouverites

People on the street share their greatest fears Among them: Flying in a plane, creepy crawlies and Freddy Krueger hiding under the bed

STEPHANIE ORFORD
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

What gets your heart pounding and scares your socks off? Evil clowns? Snakes? A zombie Justin Bieber?

Vancouver's Kayla Matzen can name her greatest fear without hesitation — spiders. Needless to say, working with spider props over Halloween for her job at costume shop Dressew can be a challenge.

The top scariest costumes of 2010 are blood-related, Matzen said.

"Vampires are a huge one this year, thanks to True Blood, Vampire Diaries, and Twilight." Zombies, Sweeny Todd, and dead Justin Bieber are other top spooky outfits.

"My ultimate fear is clowns," admitted Jennifer Germyn, another Halloween lover. "They just pop out of nowhere and scare you. That's why I don't go to Fright Nights."

Hitting a little closer to home, Michael Croteau and Melanie Beaudette agreed that bug infestations were one of their biggest fears.

"Paranormal activity, exorcism, bad spirits. I'm afraid they'll haunt me. It creeps me out."
RICHARD VO, BURNABY

"Whatever small bugs come in packs," Beaudette cringed. "Cockroaches, bed bugs. I don't mind spiders."

Michael Croteau said he was afraid of flying.

"There's the voice of the captain, but you never see who the voice is," Croteau said. "It could be some guy on his cellphone on the streets of Vancouver."

Fear factors

Read Metro tomorrow for a look at the primal nature of fear and its evolution.

STEPHANIE ORFORD/FOR METRO

Michael Croteau and Melanie Beaudette practise for Halloween on Richards Street yesterday.

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Hundreds dead or missing after eruption, tsunami

Police and volunteers in Indonesia were shown pulling at least 14 ash-covered bodies and carrying them to vehicles

A volcanic eruption and a tsunami killed scores of people hundreds of miles apart in Indonesia — spasms from the Pacific "Ring of Fire," which spawns disasters from deep within the Earth.

Yesterday's eruption of Mount Merapi killed at least 18 people, forced thousands to flee down its slopes and spewed burning ash and smoke high into the air on the island of Java.

Meanwhile, off the coast of Sumatra, about 1,300 kilometres west of the volcano, rescuers battled rough seas to reach Indonesia's Mentawai islands, where a 10-foot tsunami triggered by an earthquake Monday night swept away hundreds of homes, killing at least 113 villagers, said Mujiharto of the Health Ministry's crisis centre. Up to 500 others are missing.

The twin disasters happened hours apart in one of the most seismically active regions on the planet.

Scientists have warned that pressure building beneath Merapi's lava dome could trigger its most powerful explosion in years.

But Gede Swantika, a government volcanologist, expressed hope the 2,968-metre mountain, which sent rocks and debris cascading down its southern slope, could be releasing steam slowly.

"It's too early to know for sure," he said, adding that a big blast could still be coming. "But if it continues like this for a while, we are looking at a slow, long eruption."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quake

The quake, just 20 kilometres beneath the ocean floor, was followed by at least 14 aftershocks, the largest measuring 6.2, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

TLML78

Waiting on Thunder

Today's photo of the day is by Canadian tlml78 and was submitted in the emotions category. The photo is titled: Tension (Waiting on Thunder). Enter your photos today and view more pictures at metrophotochallenge.ca.

metro PHOTO CHALLENGE

Firearm homicides decline: Report

A new study says there were fewer firearm-related homicides last year.

Police reported 179 of Canada's 610 homicides were committed with a firearm in 2009; that's 21 fewer than in 2008.

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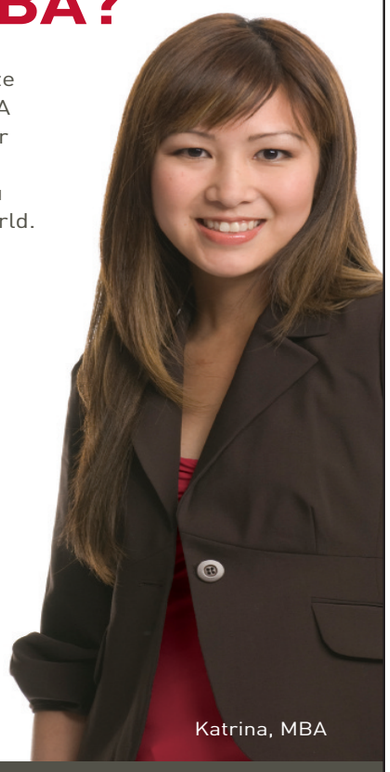

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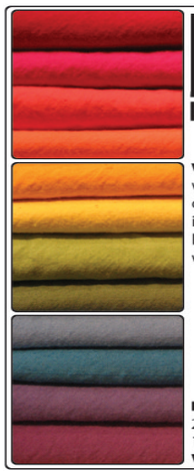

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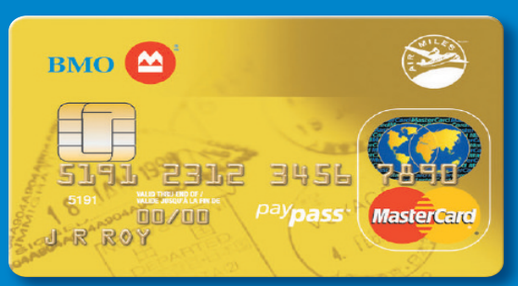

In fact, that's enough for a return flight[1]. Just apply for a BMO® Gold AIR MILES®† MasterCard®* by November 30th and get 1,000 Bonus AIR MILES®† reward miles with your first card purchase[2].

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A SPECIAL REPORT PRESENTED BY ING DIRECT

JOIN THE MONEY MOVEMENT:

Fees can take a big bite out of your retirement

Peter Aceto President & CEO at ING DIRECT

Saving money in a high interest savings account is a great and safe way to ensure your hard earned dollars gain value as you save for a goal, such as a vacation or a new car. But, investing in products that offer higher rates like GICs, bonds, or in the stock market can grow your nest egg even more for your long term goals, such as retirement. Investing may be riskier in the short term but it may produce greater rewards in the long term.

One of the easiest ways to improve returns on your investments is by reducing the fees you pay. It's well known that 80% of actively managed funds don't beat the market indexes most of the time. Since mutual fund fees aren't related to good performance and you have to pay the same fee whether the investment makes money or not, it's always a good idea to shop around for the best option possible. Over the long term fees are one factor that may make a big difference in the value of your portfolio.

Let's assume you placed $2,500 at the beginning of the year in two different mutual funds. One has a 2.5% fee, and the other has a 1% fee, and both invest in large cap companies and earn an annual total compound return of 7%. After 30 years, you'd have $45,126 more with the lower fee fund than the higher fee fund.

Knowing your investment behaviour can also help you save dollars in the long term by helping to ensure you start with a plan you'll stick with. In addition to saving on fees, here are three basic things to consider when selecting where you should invest your money:

1. Objective: What are you investing for? Is it a car or retirement? If it's for retirement, are you currently retired and need to generate income today or are you many years away from needing that income
2. Time Horizon: The longer the time period until you require the funds invested, the more risk you can usually take
3. Risk Tolerance: Knowing how much risk you are willing to take with your money will help you choose investment products that you're comfortable with and match your goals

To find out more about ING DIRECT's Money Movement, check out our Facebook fanpage (facebook.com/SuperStarSaver) or our Twitter page (twitter.com/SuperStarSaver). You can also drop into the ING DIRECT Café at 466 Howe Street, here in Vancouver.

Commissions, trailing commissions and management fees and expenses may all be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the prospectus before investing. The indicated rates of return are historical compounded total returns including changes in unit value and reinvestment of all distributions and does not take into account any sales charges or taxes payable by unit holders that may have reduced returns. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, unit values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

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Things go from bad to worse for Alberta ducks

Death of ducks follows two-year legal odyssey around 2008 incident Syncrude initially reported 500 deaths

More than 200 birds died after they landed on gooey, toxic oilsands tailings ponds in northern Alberta, just days after oil giant Syncrude agreed to pay more than $3 million in a similar case where 1,600 ducks died.

Syncrude appears to have been hardest hit Monday night, with 230 birds needing to be put down after seeking refuge on the company's Mildred Lake tailings pond, which contains a thick brew of poisonous oilsands byproduct.

By yesterday evening, Shell and Suncor had also reported a "handful" of bird landings and the province had opened a "regional investigation," said Alberta Environment spokeswoman Cara Tobin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

▶ Rob Renner

Syncrude blamed freezing rain for the situation. A news release on the company's website said workers noticed the birds Monday night in parking lots and on roads around its operation. They appeared exhausted and unable to fly. Initially Syncrude said only 125 birds had to be killed but that number grew throughout the day.

"This definitely is not something that we wanted to see happen," said spokeswoman Cheryl Robb. "It's hit us really hard."

Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner was first to go public with the Syncrude case yesterday morning.

"It's discouraging in the extreme," Renner said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Auditor slams Tories' helicopter program

Report accuses defence planners of misleading Treasury Board

Auditor General Sheila Fraser carpet bombed National Defence and Public Works yesterday for huge cost overruns and delays in the purchase of new military helicopters — but the real damage could be to the Harper government's planned stealth-fighter program.

The auditor's scathing analysis of programs to buy choppers for maritime patrol and army battlefield operations was the highlight of Fraser's fall report, and critics were quick to link the embarrassment to the plan to spend $16 billion on the F-35 Lightning II.

Other chapters of Fraser's report looked at the Conservative government's stimulus program and the regulation of big banks. But it was the combined $11-billion purchase of CH-148 Cyclones and CH-147F Chinook helicopters that drew the most fire.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget buster

- Fraser's audit found the total cost of buying 28 Cyclone helicopters to replace the antique Sea King fleet will likely top $5.7 billion and come in seven years late.
- In 2003, Paul Martin's Liberals pegged the program at $2.8 billion.

$2.9B The final bill for the 15 Chinook battlefield helicopters is expected to be $4.9 billion — $2.9 billion more than the initial estimate in 2006.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Auditor General Sheila Fraser holds a news conference on Parliament Hill yesterday after the release of her fall report.

Border agency too easy on importers?

Canada's auditor general says the federal government may be missing out on collecting millions in duties and taxes on imports.

Sheila Fraser says the Canada Border Service Agency relies on importers to calculate what they owe, but doesn't have a system to measure whether those calculations are accurate.

She says the agency is moving to improve its verification system although all the rules won't be in place until next spring.

Fraser says the agency conducted 2,700 verifications in 2009-2010, which covered about three per cent of the value of imports that year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Praise for charity monitors

Sheila Fraser says the Canada Revenue Agency is doing a good job riding herd on registered charities. It's thorough in its monitoring of more than 85,000 charities and the $2.4 billion in tax breaks generated by donations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Room to improve

- Fraser said the CRA could improve the way it deals with charities that are late in filing their required annual information returns.
- She suggests random audits of charities may not adequately measure their compliance with the rules.
- The CRA has pledged to tighten up its handling of these issues.

Bank regulators falling behind?

The federal auditor general says Canada's banking regulators have managed to keep the most potent effects of the global financial crisis at bay, but are scrambling to keep up with the pace of global rules and financial innovation.

The audit finds the regulators were flexible, adapting their advice for banks as the global crisis took unexpected twists and turns that caused banking and liquidity challenges around the world.

But the regulators are having a hard time training, retaining and sufficiently compensating qualified staff who are able to keep abreast of the rapid changes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Hillary to stop in China

TOUR. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is adding a stop in China to her two-week tour of Asia.

She is scheduled to meet Saturday with Chinese State Councillor Dai Bingguo, who oversees foreign policy for China. The State Department said yesterday they will discuss economic issues ahead of next month's Group of 20 economic summit and the expected U.S. visit early next year of Chinese President Hu Jintao. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Minister leads trade mission

CHINA. British Columbia's forestry minister is leading the province's largest-ever trade mission to China to try to increase lumber sales there.

Pat Bell says the 10-day trip, which starts tomorrow, will build on seven years of work to break down barriers to wood-frame construction in China. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Activists get awards invite

NOBEL. The wife of jailed Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo has invited

dozens of Chinese activists and luminaries to go to the Nobel award ceremony in Oslo on her behalf as authorities are likely to block her from going. Liu Xia, pictured, said in a letter posted online she believed her husband would want his friends "to attend this historic ceremony." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

PROTESTS

Protests started after collision of Chinese boat, Japanese patrol vessel and have spread across the nation

Protesters burned a Japanese flag outside the country's consulate as hundreds marched yesterday in the southwestern Chinese city of Chongqing, the latest flare-up triggered by a territorial dispute over a chain of islands.

The Chinese government has so far been unable to stop the protests, which have popped up in cities across the country as word spread online. Beijing has said the protesters' reasons for marching were understandable, but voiced its disapproval of "illegal and irrational acts."

About 700 to 800 people marched in Chongqing yesterday afternoon, shouting, "We love China" and "Boycott Japanese goods," said a security guard surnamed Peng in one local residential area.

"We must strengthen propaganda and opinion work to guide the public to voice its patriotic aspirations in a rational and orderly way according to the law, protecting social and political stability."

CHINESE POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER ZHOU YONGKANG

The demonstrators were flanked by police, he said.

"They sang the national anthem and shouted that people should boycott Japanese goods," Japanese consul Kiyomi Seno said.

The protesters also burned a Japanese flag in front of the building where the consulate is located, though it took several tries because of heavy rain. News photographs showed protesters, many appearing to be students, holding umbrellas and clustering around the flag while police watched over the scene.

The protesters left soon after and there was no danger of clashes because of heavy security surrounding the consulate, Seno said.

The protests were sparked by a collision last month between a Chinese fishing boat and Japanese government patrol vessels. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

RAGE IN CHINA

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Anti-Japan protesters gather in southwestern China's Chongqing city, yesterday. Hundreds marched yesterday in the city, the latest flare-up triggered by a territorial dispute with Japan over a chain of islands.

Government calls for end to rallies

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu on yesterday reiterated the government's stance that the protests should stop.

"The outrage of the Chinese people over recent Japanese statements and actions is understandable," he said, but added that the government "disapproves of illegal and irrational acts."

The concern has reached the highest levels of government, with Zhou Yongkang, the Communist Party's top law-and-order official, speaking out about the protests for the first time. "We must strengthen propaganda and opinion work to guide the public to voice its patriotic aspirations in a rational and orderly way according to the law, protecting social and political stability," Zhou was quoted as saying. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online

China's censors have been deleting any references to anti-Japan protests on websites, blogs and Twitter-like microblogs. Protest organizers have been skirting that by posting images with details of the rallies on instant messaging programs.

NASA boss pays visit to Chinese space centre

The head of NASA visited China's manned space flight launch centre during a trip to the country to explore possibilities for cooperation, the U.S. agency said yesterday.

China launched its first manned space flight in 2003 and plans an unmanned moon landing in 2012, with a possible manned lunar mission to follow in 2017 — marking new milestones in its space program while those in the U.S. and elsewhere face tightened budgets.

NASA administrator Charles Bolden Jr. said he had a "very comprehensive" visit to facilities run by the manned space flight program, including the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China's northwest, according to a NASA statement.

Bolden left Thursday after a six-day visit. China has not commented on the visit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

▶ Chinese astronauts Zhai Zhigang, left, waves near Liu Boming, centre, as Jing Haipeng is assisted out of the Shenzhou re-entry capsule after they landed in Mongolia Sept. 8, 2008.

Visit

The visit succeeded in boosting understanding between the sides about their programs and the "importance of transparency, reciprocity and mutual benefit as the underlying principles of any future interaction between our two nations in the area of human spaceflight," Bolden was quoted as saying.

DIRTY BUSINESS OF 'GREENWASHING'

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

It ain't easy being green.

Or maybe it's too easy. According to one source, 95.6 per cent of all "green" consumer products make at least one dubious claim about their environmental purity.

Quick, point me to the aisle where they keep the other 4.4 per cent.

It's called "greenwashing" and it's out of control if you believe an environmental marketing firm called TerraChoice.

It's even worse for baby products: 99.2 per cent. These people are picking on infants. If there's a hell, there's a green room just for these guys.

We've seen all this before. Remember, in no particular order: Non-fat; low cholesterol; vitamin C; low carbs; and the granddaddy of them all, low tar and nicotine cigarettes. They're good for you.

Part of this is wishful thinking on our part. Oh, look, green detergent! The planet is safe!

Mostly, it's opportunistic liars trying to pull a fast one. They'll try anything: Fake labels that make it look as if the product has been given some green housekeeping seal of approval. Or proudly announce their product is CFC-free. Of course it is. CFCs are banned.

I could go on. The list is endless.

And if that's not bad enough, there's this blogger who is making headlines across the country.

> **"Mostly, it's opportunistic liars trying to pull a fast one."**

Vivian Krause, who has been following the money, says Canadian environmental groups are mere branch plants of giant U.S. foundations that have decided to go to war against the Alberta oilsands.

We hear from Greenpeace and the Sierra Club, but we don't hear that dozens of Canadian organizations have received millions from one source, San Francisco-based Tides U.S. And that's only part of a multimillion-dollar effort targeted at the tarsands and pipeline projects by a few huge U.S. foundations.

One whopping grant, $27.6 million, went to "mobilize First Nations against climate change in B.C." by hiring a co-ordinator to "engage with government, industry, environmental groups, media and the public regarding the proposed Enbridge Gateway tarsands pipeline." Where do I apply?

Who are these guys and why are they bankrolling Canada's environmental movement? Because it's easier than cleaning up their own backyard? Only Krause seems to know. Look her up at www.fair-questions.com.

My point is simple. Of course we want to save the planet for our children. But we need to trust those who would speak on behalf of our hopes and fears.

There's nothing green about the same old BS.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Panda proliferation

Worth mentioning

Baby boom

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

China's panda population is booming this year thanks to a record number of births in captivity, a rare accomplishment for the endangered species known for being poor breeders.

The most recent addition — the birth of female twins — brought the total number of births this year to 19, surpassing the record of 18 births in 2006, Tang Chunxiang, an expert at the Wolong Panda reserve in Sichuan province, said yesterday.

Giant panda "Yo Yo" gave birth to healthy twins at the reserve last week.

Tang attributed this year's record number of births to better research on panda nutrition, artificial insemination, genetics and creating a more natural habitat for the pandas in which to thrive.

Pandas are threatened by a loss of habitat, poaching and a low reproduction rate. Females in the wild normally have a cub once every two or three years. Fertility rates of captive giant pandas are even lower, experts say. Only about 1,600 pandas live in the wild, mostly in Sichuan in southwest China. Through artificial insemination, researchers have been able increase the number of pandas in captivity to more than 300 — a number experts say should remain steady.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Should we get rid of the penny? Why or why not?

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Metro has the right to edit letters and submissions.

Metro Minute at Spooky Seas

If you're itchin' to get your scare on, head down to the Vancouver Aquarium and take part in its Spooky Seas adventure.

Explore the aquarium's exclusive Skulls, Bones And Creeps Of The Deep exhibit, or learn about the West Coast's predator-prey life cycle as you peer inside the jaws of a great white shark or the skull of an orca.

You can also be whisked away during a 4-D adventure: The Curse Of Skull Rock with wind and mist that will tickle your senses. The aquarium is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and adult admission is $21.

For more information, visit visitvanaqua.org.

SARAH N. FITZGERALD

JOHN HEALEY/VANCOUVER AQUARIUM

▶ Visit the Vancouver Aquarium and take part in its Spooky Seas adventure.

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Putting the Sony Walkman to bed

YOSHIKAZU TSUNO/GETTY IMAGES

The Walkman, the Sony cassette device that forever changed music listening before becoming outdated by digital MP3 players and iPods, has died. It was 31 years old.

Sony announced Monday that it has ceased production of the classic, cassette tape Walkman in Japan, effectively sounding the death knell of the once iconic, now obsolete device.

The Walkman is survived by the Discman (still clinging to life) and ironic music listeners who think using a Walkman in this day-and-age is charmingly out-of-touch.

It will continue to be produced in China and distributed in the U.S., Europe and some Asian countries.

Digital Walkmans are also being made with models that display lyrics and have improved digital noise-cancelling technology.

Still, if you're looking to chisel a date in the Walkman's tombstone, then Oct. 25, 2010, is as good as any. For many, that it's taken this long is surprising: "They were still making those?" Perhaps Oct. 23, 2001, the day the iPod was launched, is the better date of expiration.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

DOLLAR	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	OIL	TSX
– 0.37¢ (97.64¢ US)	$3.395 (+ 3.7¢) Gold contracts $1,338.60 (– 30¢)	+ 30¢ US ($82.55 US)	+ 21.10 (12,684.68)

China. Train

▶ Journalists photograph the bullet trains of a new high-speed railway linking Shanghai with Hangzhou yesterday in Shanghai, China.

ELAINE KURTENBACH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Take that, TGV

The efforts to develop China's own ultra high-speed rail technology is a showcase project nearly on a par with the country's space program in terms of national pride and importance. Railway officials recently announced they were working on technology to boost speeds to over 500 km/h.

Rogers Q3 profits drop by a quarter

▶ Fewer new wireless subscribers as compared to last year ▶ More spent to retain existing customers

Rogers Communications Inc. profits dropped by 24 per cent in the third quarter as it battled stiffer competition in the wireless market, spending more money on its smartphone customers.

Net income for the giant wireless, cable and media company weakened to $370 million, or 64 cents per share, in the three month period ended Sept. 30. That's down from $485 million, or 79 cents per share, in the same period a year ago.

Rogers said yesterday that heightened competition in the overall market resulted in fewer net subscriber additions of 125,000 to its wireless services, compared with 167,000 in the same quarter last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Company profile

Rogers is Canada's largest wireless provider.

- **Brands** The company has the Rogers Wireless and Fido brands as well as the talk-and-text brand, Chatr.
- **Services** Rogers provides cable, Internet, phone, specialty and conventional television services.
- **Assets** The company owns radio and TV stations, publishes a stable of magazines and owns the Toronto Blue Jays.
- **Revenue** The wireless division provided more than half of the company's overall operating revenue, at $1.8 billion. The cable division's revenue was $1 billion.

Thar she blows, Canada

Call it a tale of two continents: the world's biggest maker of wind turbines announced that it will lay off nearly a third of its workforce because of a weak outlook for the European wind energy market in 2011, while Canada is expecting a year of record growth.

Denmark-based Vestas A/S yesterday posted a 24 per cent drop in third-quarter earnings and said it will lay off some 3,000 workers in Denmark and Sweden to adjust to lower demand in Europe.

But the weaker outlook for European demand is having no impact on optimism on our side of the Atlantic. Robert Hornung, president of the Canadian Wind Energy Association, said over 1,000 megawatts of new wind energy capacity is expected to be installed in Canada next year — exceeding the record 950 megawatts of capacity that was installed in 2009. One megawatt is equal to one million watts.

Contracts have already been signed for 6,000 megawatts of new capacity to be installed over the next five years, and Hornung said he expects that number will increase to 8,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

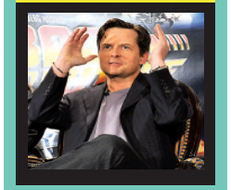
2015 Currently, only about 1.5 per cent of Canada's total energy demand is met by wind power this number is expected to increase to five per cent by 2015, according to the president of the Canadian Wind Energy Association.

VESTAS WIND SYSTEMS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Many provinces are working to reduce their reliance on polluting sources of energy like coal and are encouraging increased use of clean energy sources like wind.

2 scene

News in brief



No need for time travel for Michael J. Fox. The actor says he's happy with his life just the way it is.

In fact, Fox says if he could jump in a DeLorean time machine — like his Back to the Future character Marty McFly — and share any advice, he would say "keep doing what you're doing." Fox says the role brought him to where he is now and he "wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Fox marked the 25th anniversary of Back to the Future at an event Monday in New York City.

He says the 1985 film gave him worldwide notoriety and that he could "walk down the street in Bangkok" and hear "Marty McFly!"

Fox was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1991. He no longer acts regularly, but will appear on an upcoming episode of The Good Wife on CBS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kevin Costner to host CMT's salute to country music's artists of the year

The best in bad horror

PHIL BROWN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Halloween is a holiday practically designed for horror movie fanatics, but if paralyzing yourself with fear while surrounded by friends, salty snacks, and soda doesn't sound like the ideal way of celebrating the holiday, then fear not.

There is another way.

Sometimes it can be just as entertaining to laugh at an unimaginably bad horror film as it is to be scared by an effective one. With that in mind, we'd like to make a few suggestions for unintentionally comedic horror movies sure to have you giggling like a trick 'r treater on a sugar high this Halloween.

Foreign terror

If trash movies don't appeal to you but you're still tired of the typical Halloween horror movie classics, why not sample some scare factories from around the world. Here are a few recommendations guaranteed to offer the most terrifying time you've ever spent reading subtitles.

- **1.** Nosferatu (1922, Germany)
- **2.** Suspiria (1977, Italy)
- **3.** Eyes Without A Face (1960, France)
- **4.** Battle Royale (2000, Japan)
- **5.** Diabolique (1955, France):
- **6.** Audition (1999, Japan)
- **7.** Black Sunday (1960, Italy)
- **8.** Calivaire (2004, France)
- **9.** [Rec] 2 (2009, Spain)
- **10.** The Devil's Backbone (2001, Spain)

PHIL BROWN

1

Troll 2
This nearly incomprehensible movie about a family terrorized by a group of vegetarian goblins who can be defeated by bologna sandwiches (actual plot) has deservedly become a cult classic with endless revival screenings and a possible sequel in the works. Believe the hype. Trash doesn't get much more deliciously awful than this.

2

Ed Wood
The man universally accepted as the worst director of all time deserves a special spot on this list for a career dedicated to z-movie dreck like 1955's Bride Of The Monster. His cinematic failures have proven to last longer than many successes from his era thanks to Wood's charming combination of undeterred confidence, determination, and a vacuum of talent. Cardboard gravestones, flying saucers hanging from strings, transvestites, and Bela Lugosi. Ed Wood movies have it all.

3

Carny
This direct to DVD circus-demon-on-the-run horror movie may have only been released last year, but earned a spot on the list for its laughable CGI, brutal dialogue ("Mister, you told me that monster was safe."), and a career worst performance from Lou Diamond Philips. There might not be a cult audience for this cinematic toilet just yet, but give it time.

4

Killer Clowns From Outerspace:
The title says it all. It's physically impossible to have a bad time watching this.

5

Troma
Finally, if you can't decide on a specific terrible title, you can't go wrong with anything from schlock-master Lloyd Kaufman's trash factory Troma Entertainment. Everything this company has released would fit the bill from The Toxic Avenger to Killer Condom or even the South Park creators' film debut Cannibal: The Musical. No one has more fun lowering the bar than Uncle Lloyd.

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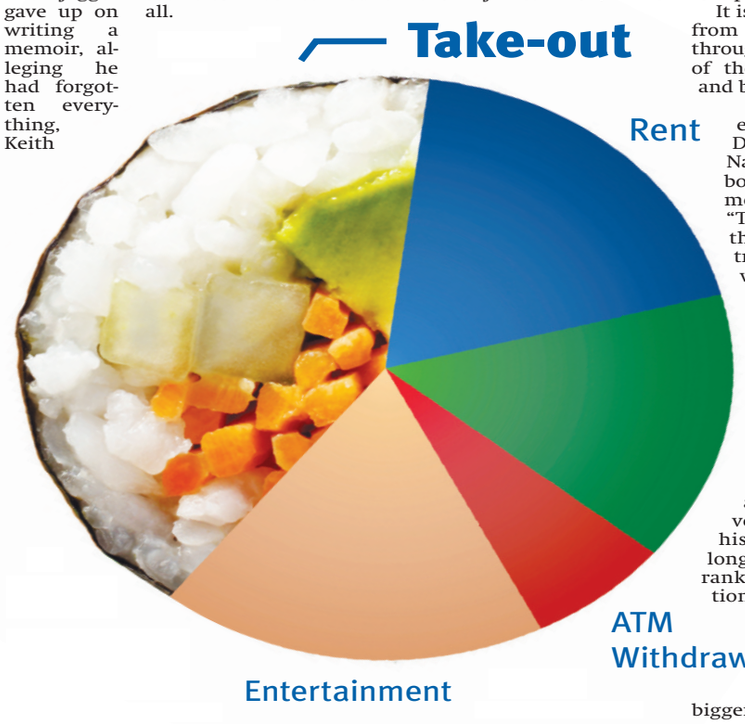
The ultimate Richards song

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Keith Richards says the Rolling Stones almost imploded because Mick Jagger thought he was "bigger than the Stones." The pair's stormy relationship is described in Richards' memoir Life.

Nearly 30 years after Mick Jagger gave up on writing a memoir, alleging he had forgotten everything, Keith Richards has emerged as a bestselling author who seems to have retained it all.



Co-written by journalist and White Mischief author James Fox, Life topped the bestseller list on Amazon.com even before publication yesterday.

It is a firsthand journey from wartime London through the wilder parts of the 1960s and 1970s and beyond.

Richards was born east of London, in Dartford, in 1943. The Nazis were dropping bombs at the time, his mother told him. "That was evidence that Hitler was on my trail," Richards writes.

He remembers "landscapes of rubble," bombed-out streets and beatings in the schoolyard.

He was a choir boy crushed at age 13 when his voice changed and his talents were no longer needed. "It still rankles, that humiliation. It still hasn't gone out, that fire," he writes. "That's when I realized there's bigger bullies than just bullies. There's them, the authorities."

Rock 'n' roll, he likes to say, changed the world from black and white to Technicolor.

On the radio, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Chuck Berry were shouts from a party he was dying to join.

On paper, he found a lonely, fictional soulmate in Holden Caulfield of The Catcher in the Rye.

"It just opened me up, just, wow," Richards says of J.D. Salinger's novel.

"A kid from another country, and a certain sense that the emotions were pretty much universal."

In 1961, he was on a train and ran into Mick Jagger, a childhood acquaintance from the cleaner side of town, Posh Town. Jagger was carrying rock and blues albums under his arms; a musical bond was born.

Mick liked to sing. Keith could play.

By 1962, the Rolling Stones were a working band, by mid-1960s, international outlaws, the dark side of their friends and rivals the Beatles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marching to the same beat as her parents

Willow Smith, daughter of Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, first entered the limelight three years ago, playing the daughter of her father's character in the blockbuster movie I Am Legend. At that time, it seemed as if she would follow in the acting footsteps of her parents, much like her brother, Jaden, who earlier this year had his own smash movie, The Karate Kid.

But Willow was more influenced by her parents' musical careers: Will Smith is a Grammy winner who got his start rapping, and Jada Pinkett Smith has toured the country as part of a metal band.

"I would go on tour with them and watch them and I'd be like, 'Oh my gosh, that's what I wanna do,'" she said.

Willow said she decided not to wait to pursue her musical career until she got older — say, as a teenager.

"I wanted to make a difference now, (and) because I wanted to be big and famous like my mommy and daddy and help people," she said.

She has become a viral sensation with her first single Whip My Hair. The song debuted on iTunes yesterday. The official version of the video has gotten more than 7 million views on YouTube.

Willow describes her style as "punk rock meets preppy" and said her musical idols include Billy Idol – "his music is really tight," she explains — and Lady Gaga.

"She's really nice," Willow said of Gaga. "She's really awesome because she cares about everybody and she writes songs about herself and everybody."

Willow said she wants her music to help everyone to follow his or her own path, "to be individuals and do what they think is good and just be themselves."

And that's the advice her parents gave her. "They said never be afraid to be yourself," she said, "even when you're in the spotlight."

She's due to release her first album on Jay-Z's Roc Nation sometime next year.

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EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Willow Smith

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So you think it will improve?

ETHAN MILLER/TABU ULTRA LOUNGE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Choreographer and television personality Mary Murphy.

So You Think You Can Dance will undergo another format overhaul after disappointing ratings over the summer, says Mary Murphy, the high-octane ballroom expert who served as guest judge and choreographer on the U.S. reality series.

Murphy, who also appeared as a guest judge on the Canadian version of the dance competition, says last season's decision to incorporate all-star dancers into weekly routines did not entirely resonate with audiences.

"Ratings did drop in the States this last season and so they're going to make changes," Murphy said backstage at So You Think You Can Dance Canada, which crowned ballroom dancer Denys Drozdyuk the winner Sunday.

"We're probably going back to the way that we used to do it and they're going to keep the all-stars as well, so they're going to do half of the show the way it used to be done and the later half of the show with the all-stars. How that's going to work out, exactly, I'm not sure yet because does that mean we increase the season if we start off with 20 dancers? Or we may be kicking more dancers off than one couple at a time. So it'll be very interesting to see how that plays."

Last spring, series creator Nigel Lythgoe announced a slew of changes that included a Top 10 instead of a Top 20, one weekly elimination instead of two, and a pool of ex-So You Think You Can Dance all-stars to serve as partners.

Murphy says she felt the change took away some of the drama that emerges when novice dancers tackle a genre they're unfamiliar with.

"Everybody knew they had somebody that was a pro in that division, someone that they can go home and practice with and know that they know what they're talking about," she says.

"When you get two different styles together and then they draw another style that they know nothing of, we're all sitting at home and we're sitting there as judges going, 'Oh my gosh, this might be a train wreck!' ... But when they do it halfway good you're like, all fired up over it. We didn't have that this season."

Murphy says she suspects audiences missed seeing dancers "really challenged" from the beginning, adding that "it makes for a bigger journey" when dancers pull off a new dance style without an expert's help.

Fox has ordered an eighth season of So You Think You Can Dance, and auditions began earlier this month in California.

Last season's winner, Lauren Froderman, danced off with a $250,000 cash prize.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TV Picks

Ghouling in the house

Modern Family goes Halloween with Claire declaring it her favourite holiday and tricking out the house for the occasion. But Cameron's not a fan of Halloween and is still haunted by a traumatic childhood experience. (Citytv) THE CANADIAN PRESS

Erica's pride put to the test

It's gay pride weekend in Toronto on Being Erica, and Erica is encouraged by Dr. Tom to let loose. Things are heating up with fellow time-traveller Adam and Cassidy's back in town too. (CBC) THE CANADIAN PRESS

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▶ Mariah Carey

Carey to have a boy, sources say

Speculation about Mariah Carey's pregnancy has reached a fever pitch, with sources now telling Hollyscope that not only is the singer expecting, but she already knows the baby's sex.

"She's having a boy, but the reason that Mariah didn't want to say anything is because she is 40, and she's superstitious," the source says.

"But she's going to appear on Oprah and The View, so she's planning on making the announcement soon."

METRO

Lohan plans to send Dad away

After previously being denied entry, Michael Lohan may finally get his wish of visiting daughter Lindsay Lohan at the Betty Ford Center — although he may not like the results.

Sources tell Radar Online Lindsay is inviting her dad in just to tell him to go away.

"It's gotten to the point where Lindsay told Dina, 'Mommy, maybe I should just let him see me because then he'll go away and he'll stop,'" a source says.

▶ Lindsay Lohan

"How would you feel if this was your dad? She's humiliated."

METRO

Mel mad at Hangover

Mel Gibson is reportedly furious about being dropped from his cameo role in The Hangover 2, according to Page Six. "Mel doesn't understand why Mike Tyson, a drug user who turned his life around, was given a chance while Mel was kicked to the curb," a source says.

METRO

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Jacko's dad denied rights to son's estate

A California appeals court rejected a bid yesterday by Michael Jackson's father to challenge the administration of his son's lucrative estate.

A three-justice panel of the California Second District Court of Appeal unanimously affirmed a probate judge's ruling that Joe Jackson didn't have standing to intervene in his son's estate.

A copy of the opinion was not immediately available. Despite being excluded from his son's 2002 will, Joe Jackson had been seeking to have some control over financial affairs.

Estate attorney Howard Weitzman said he was pleased the court affirmed the pop star's wishes to make John Branca and John McClain executors of his will.

"We hope this decision finally puts this issue to rest," Weitzman said.

Brian Oxman, Joe Jackson's attorney, said the father should have some say in post-death affairs involving his son.

"This is not right," Oxman said of yesterday's ruling.

The appeals court heard arguments in the estate case on Oct. 6. The panel questioned several steps taken by Joe Jackson in the case, including withdrawing his request for a monthly stipend.

The panel also questioned why Oxman didn't mention during a lengthy hearing in November that he might file a wrongful death lawsuit. Last June, Joe Jackson sued Dr. Conrad Murray, the physician charged with involuntary manslaughter in Michael Jackson's death.

Michael Jackson's estate has earned tens of millions of dollars since the singer's death in June 2009 at age 50 in Los Angeles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Joe Jackson, father of the late singer Michael Jackson, waves to fans as he arrives to court to attend the status conference of Dr. Conrad Murray yesterday in Los Angeles.

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Taylor, Jake seen together

Songstress and Brokeback Mountain actor showed up at SNL Then seen the next day having brunch

Taylor Swift has reportedly been getting cozy with Jake Gyllenhaal while in New York, showing up at Saturday Night Live together last weekend to cheer on pal Emma Stone who was hosting the show, according to People magazine.

"They walked around together backstage, but they were careful not to be seen too close.

"It was hard to tell if they were together, but everyone was shocked that she brought him," a source says, adding that they were spotted in Brooklyn the next morning having brunch with another couple and strolling around the neighbourhood.

METRO

GETTY IMAGES

Taylor Swift

Simpson happy with new BF

Jessica Simpson is totally smitten with new boyfriend Eric Johnson, and she wants everyone to know about it.

"He definitely makes me very happy. He brings out a lot of light in me and makes me very comfortable being who I am," she tells USA Today.

And though she's been divorced once before, she hasn't been put off tying the knot completely.

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Sheen given psychiatric evaluation

Charlie Sheen was hospitalized yesterday for a psychiatric evaluation after a woman told police he was throwing furniture and yelling in his hotel room, a law enforcement official said. His publicist blamed an allergic reaction to medication.

Police were called to The Plaza by hotel security at about 2 a.m. and Sheen appeared highly intoxicated, the official said. The actor was not arrested and went voluntarily. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the encounter and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Sheen's publicist Stan Rosenfield said the 45-year-old was expected to be released today.

"Charlie had an adverse allergic reaction to some medication and was taken to the hospital," he said.

Police haven't received any complaints from the hotel about any possible damage. A message left with the historic hotel at the foot of Central Park wasn't returned.

It's not clear who the woman in the hotel room was. Sheen was reportedly in New York on a family vacation with his ex-wife, Denise Richards, and their two children, Sam, 6, and Lola, 5.

Sheen, the star of CBS' Two and a Half Men, has had problems with alcohol and drugs in the past.

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Charlie Sheen

In August, he pleaded guilty in Aspen, Colo., to misdemeanour third-degree assault after a Christmas Day altercation with his wife, Brooke Mueller Sheen. Prosecutors dropped more serious charges and he avoided jail time and he was sentenced to 30 days in a rehabilitation centre, 30 days of probation and 36 hours of anger management.

Mueller Sheen, who is the mother of twins with Sheen, told police that the actor threatened to kill her and brandished a knife after she told him she wanted a divorce. Charlie Sheen said they argued but he denied threatening her, and he told police that he was upset by the divorce threat.

He previously went through a bitter divorce and custody battle with Richards. Her publicist said Tuesday she had no comment on Tuesday's hotel encounter.

In December 1996, Sheen was charged with attacking a girlfriend at his Southern California home. He later pleaded no contest and was placed on two years of probation.

In 1998, his father, actor Martin Sheen, turned him in for violating parole after a cocaine overdose sent him to the hospital. He was ordered to undergo a rehabilitation program.

Sheen is also the star of films such as Platoon, Wall Street and Hot Shots!

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*Contest rules and regulations can be found on www.clubmetro.com/unicef

Halloween Safety Tips

Here's how parents can help their youngest ghouls and ghosts stay safe this Halloween:

1. Apply reflective tape to Halloween costumes.
2. Use face paint rather than masks that could cover the eyes.
3. Remind your kids to look both ways before crossing the street.
4. Accompany young children. Older trick or treaters should travel in small groups on a pre-planned route.
5. Inspect all treats before children sample their goodies.

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In the words of the song, the Windy City has razzmatazz and all that jazz But it's the restaurants that have travellers singing its praises

PHOTOS: GIZELLE LAU

From spicy pork rinds served in a giant cone, to crispy fried sweetbreads and deep-dish pizzas, Chicago is a happening town — for foodies.

It's your kind of food town, Chicago

GIZELLE LAU
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

So you're visiting Chicago and a meal at just any American food chain won't do? Okay, here are five of the most unique restaurants Chicago offers.

Deep-Dish Pizza
There's no going to Chicago without a deep-dish pizza. Every Chicagoan has their favourite, but you can't go wrong with these classic spots: Pizzeria Uno or Due, Lou Malnati's, Giordano's Pizza, Pequod's Pizza or Gino's East. Be prepared to wait in line during peak times or order ahead for pickup. Dinner for two: $30-40 with drinks.

Publican Restaurant
One of the hippest new spots in Chicago, is an ode to local foods. It's busy day and night — offering a great drinks menu, daily specials and staples such as spicy pork rinds served in a giant cone; a plate of aged ham with samples from Spain, Iowa and Virginia; creamy, crispy fried sweetbreads; or a pig's head. Order a lot and share with friends. Dinner for two: $100 with drinks.

Hot Doug's selection.

Hot Doug's
This is no regular hot dog place. Any time during opening hours, there's a one-hour lineup around the building. The menu offers more than a dozen of the wildest hot dogs — such as a foie gras and sauternes duck sausage dog; a spicy Thai chicken sausage; blue cheese pork sausage; smoked shrimp and pork sausage; or the Game of the Week dog with meats like crocodile and ostrich. Meal for two: $30 with drinks.

Frontera Grill
One of the city's best-loved restaurants for its creamy guacamoles, refreshing ceviches and grilled meats. Meal for two: $100 with drinks.

Vie Restaurant
It is in Western Springs, a 30-minute train ride from downtown. Chef Paul Virant uses ingredients from local farms to create some of the most inventive dishes in Chicago. A meal here is around $150 for dinner for two — but its a steal because of the quality.

3 life

Travel in brief

National Geographic Traveler magazine has selected Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula as its top rated coastal destination. The magazine's November issue says the peninsula, is a "blustery realm" that is home to "brightly painted fishing villages and the lively city of St. John's." It says visiting the Avalon is "like going back in time — close-knit communities, a strong local culture reflected in music and art, and unspoiled scenery."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Where Google won't work, state tourism bureaus use social networks to attract visitors.

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San Diego's style

The old vision of this city has been swept away The new San Diego is a modern, bustling metropolis

THE TRAVELIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Gone are the days when San Diego meant a brief visit to a world famous zoo, or a sunny respite for day trippers on the way to Tijuana Mexico.

The city is bustling with more and more Canadian tourists or snowbirds lately, mainly because there is a heck of a lot more to do, than just work on the old tan.

For instance, a measly 60 bucks Canadian, buys you an opportunity to join the biggest sport fishing fleet in the world.

H and M Landing offers a six hour tour off San Diego Harbour where you're sure to snag something.

I barely dropped my line when that epic battle between man and fish began.

After much struggling, I did end up reeling a couple of whoppers.

Actually, they turned out to be a couple of 12 inch cod, but what's a fish story without gross exaggeration?

For the more adventurous there's big yellow tail, sea bass and even shark to be caught.

If angling isn't your cup of tea, it's worth the ten bucks an hour just for the stunning views of downtown, nearby Coronato, and even Tijuana from way out on the open water.

It should be said, these are big boats, with a lot of amateur anglers trying their luck in close proximity to each other so expect a few snags and crossed lines which is all part of the fun, if it's not your equipment that is.

San Diego is home to the largest naval base on the west coast, so hulking ships in the area are a dime a dozen.

It's a bit surreal to be baiting your hook, while huge grey battle ships loaded with sailors on drill drift by just a few hundred yards in the background.

Think I'd rather be fishing.

San Diego

Other Cool Things to Do in San Diego:

- **Take Your Catch to Sea Rocket Bistro** One of many great downtown restaurants serving all local ingredients from local fishermen and farmers. The trendy environment features funky cardboard fish décor, and yes, if you catch it, they'll cook it for you.
- **Eat A Live Sea Urchin at the Farmer's Market** Located in the heart of the city's Little Italy, this weekly crowded market is full of sustainable delicacies, including live sea urchin. It's a bit hard to swallow, but actually tastes like, you guessed it, the ocean.

A piece of history

Visitors flock to see carrier at USS Midway museum

The Midway — America's 41st fighting, floating airport — zapped fighter jets off its steam catapults and trapped 'em with its tailhooks for 47 years before it was mothballed, retired to a pier in San Diego Bay and transformed into one of the world's great museums.

Standing on Midway's windswept flight deck in the morning sun, with the city skyline to the east and the USS Ronald Reagan carrier chugging out to sea to the west, the pilot-turned-tour-guide ties into a knot of tourists.

The USS Midway, walking distance from downtown San Diego, is a floating city of 4,500 that took to the seas shortly after the Second World War and served around the world until decommissioned in 1992.

It was active in the Vietnam conflict and in 1975 took in planes ferrying U.S. citizens and refugees fleeing South Vietnam, ahead of its North Vietnamese occupiers.

In 1990, fighters flew off its deck in Operation Desert Storm against Sadam Hussein's troops in Kuwait.

By 2004, the carrier was 12 years into retirement when it opened its doors as a tourist attraction.

Today, visitors head up the gangway, put on headphones and walk the decks on a personal, self-directed audio tour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Need to know

What you need to know:

- **Gear** Pack sunscreen and a good pair of running shoes. High heels and flip-flops are killers on narrow metal stairs.
- **Kids** Toddlers and young ones can come but strollers quickly bog down in the welter of tiny hallways and rooms.
- **Gets busy** The best bet is to go early and zip up to the flight deck to take a tour of the bridge

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ USS Midway at dock before the San Diego skyline.

Come up for air in HAWAII

Take a trip to Hawaii and you'll be surrounded by water. Literally. After all, this is a state made up of islands—eight to be precise, six of which are open to visitors. So what are you going to do with all this turquoise treasure when you find it? You could just lie there and gaze—Hawaii's beaches are legendary for a reason, particularly those in Maui, which is prime whale-watching territory. But the bond between humans and the sea goes deeper. Hawaii's waves are as much a playground as anything you'll find on land..

STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDING

Stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) is a popular way for Hawaiians to keep fit, so who are you to argue? This emerging pastime has riders stand upright on boards longer and wider than those used for surfing; you'll make your way across the waves with the aid of a paddle. Lessons are recommended, but for a far more strenuous workout (or just to be part of a legendary event), investigate the Molokai Hoe.

FAME & FORTUNE

Culture comes in many forms. No modern history of Palm Springs would be complete (or nearly as much fun) without a look at some of the city's most dazzling residents. A former home of Marlene Dietrich, Loretta Young, Bob Hope, and Lucille Ball among many others, Palm Springs continues to draw luminaries like Leonardo DiCaprio, Halley Berry, and Gwen Stefani to its sun-drenched streets. A trip down Frank Sinatra Drive reminds you of the most famous Palm Springs resident of all.

THE MOLOKAI HOE

The Ka'iwi Channel, separating the islands of Oahu and Molokai, is one of the world's most dangerous stretches of ocean. It's also site of an annual boat race called the Molokai Hoe, contested between teams of paddlers aboard outrigger canoes. One of Hawaii's longest running sporting events, the race lasts several hours… so maybe you should stick to Hawaii's greatest global export: the noble sport of surfing.

SURFING

Big wave surfing has been popular in Hawaii for decades; today, some of the world's most prestigious competitions take place between November and December on Oahu's north shores. Once a sport practiced only by royalty, surfing is now commonplace, and should you care to give it a try, lessons typically run between one and two hours, taught in gentle breaks.

Surfing is more than a pastime in Hawaii; it's even more than a sport—it's a matter of heritage. If you don't feel like riding the waves you can still learn about those who do, at places like the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, which possesses the world's largest collection of Duke Kahanamoku photographs, along with one of his earliest boards. Kahanamoku (1890 to 1968) was a celebrity, movie actor, Olympic athlete, and cultural ambassador for all things Hawaiian. His open-armed, bronze statue in front the Honolulu Police Department's station on Waikiki Beach is a well-loved attraction. To learn even more about surfing history, visit Hawaii's North Shore Surf and Culture Museum, which possesses the first motorized surfboard, the first snowboard, and many other antiques of the sport. The museum also shows surfing movies throughout the day.

Photos: OVB and Veronica Carmona Photography

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FLICKR: RAIN RANNU

▶ San Francisco is one of the top dog friendly destinations in the U.S.

Pet-friendly destinations

What you need to know when travelling with your dog Make sure to plan ahead before leaving

JESSICA LEWIS
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Do you shake with excitement when you think about taking your pet on vacation with you this winter? It's possible, but with extra care and lots of time to plan ahead.

Websites such as DogFriendly.com prepare databases of hotels, resorts and cities that will be the best fit for your animal.

In fact, this site publishes an annual Top 10 most dog-friendly cities, determined by a staff of researchers.

"The criteria is the quality of the accommodations, beaches, parks, attractions, dining, stores and other things to do with your dog," says co-editor Len Kain, who believes that the site also can help with cats, birds and maybe even snakes.

But according to Kain, dogs are about 85 per cent of the travelling animals, at least in the U.S. And while in planning mode, there are certain safety precautions to take note of.

"You have to watch for extreme temperatures," he says. As with fur, dogs can dehydrate quickly. "You also want to look for outdoor places, because that's where the dog is most likely to be allowed to go to."

For travelling procedures, you should check on the weight limits and rates for your pet with a transportation service or accommodations.

Also, make sure they've received the proper health care, including shots, especially if travelling to countries such as Mexico.

"There are a lot of parasites that aren't really in the U.S. and Canada that you have to watch for," says Kain.

Destinations

Here are two warm pet-friendly U.S. destinations. With each, there are plenty of hotels, parks and restaurants with outdoor patios.

- **San Diego, California** Visit the dog beach in Ocean Beach or Fiesta Island in Mission Bay. Shop through Horton Plaza Shopping Center.
- **San Francisco, California** View the Golden Gate Bridge from Baker Beach or Golden Gate Park.

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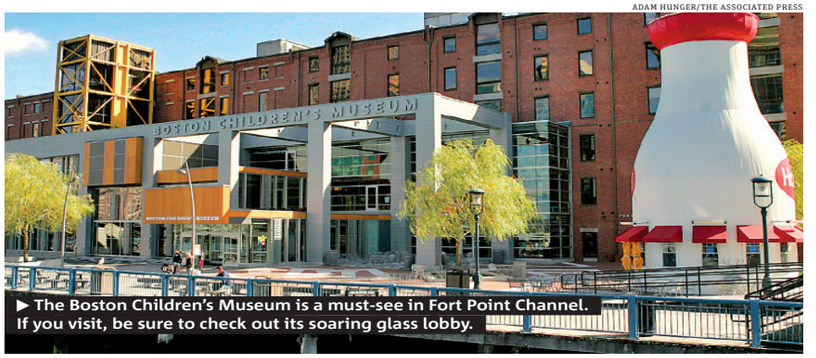
No looking back for this historic tourist mecca

Boston's art colony is a real-life adventure for visitors Not bad for an area that once was a swamp

ADAM HUNGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ The Boston Children's Museum is a must-see in Fort Point Channel. If you visit, be sure to check out its soaring glass lobby.

Fort Point Channel was once nothing but swampland and tidal marsh.

In the 19th century, it became an industrial centre, warehousing wool from around New England.

Today, the 22-hectare landmark district abutting South Boston has reinvented itself as an artists' colony, with lofts, studios, galleries and museums.

Many of them are located in the distinctive red-and-yellow brick-and-granite buildings that once housed factories.

The revitalization of Fort Point Channel, located near South Station, has brought trendy restaurants, bars and of course tourists, making the neighbourhood a new destination with a long history that even includes a connection to the Tea Party — the original one, that is, from 1773.

Sue and Bob Schmidt, exploring the neighbourhood on a visit from Chicago, sat in a waterfront plaza in the area sipping coffee as a couple of pigeons pecked on crumbs under their table.

"People are very friendly and everything is quaint and easily accessible," Sue said.

Fort Point Channel's transition from industrial to up-and-coming has taken place over the past three decades.

"It's very tranquil, very tranquil. As you can see, the birds are going to come up and sit with you."
SUE SCHMIDT, VISITING FROM CHICAGO

About 300 artists live in the area now, one of the highest concentrations in New England, said Gabrielle Schaffner of Fort Point Arts Community, a non-profit group.

In addition to being an attractive destination for art enthusiasts, the area lures families, shoppers, diners, history buffs and others seeking alternatives to the cobbled alleys of Beacon Hill, the Freedom Trail, Faneuil Hall and other Boston locations.

In the works for 2012 is a $25-million museum and three replica ships commemorating the Boston Tea Party, when colonists disguised as Indians stormed a British ship and dumped crates of tea into the water to protest taxes.

Historians believe the historic episode took place in Fort Point Channel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not kids' stuff

The Boston Children's Museum is one of Fort Point Channel's prime attractions.

- The museum offers interactive, hands-on and creative exhibits, including a three-storey climbing structure made up of curved platforms rising up a glass lobby with a panoramic view of downtown Boston.
- "It's pretty vibrant and I like the way it's integrated into the port. You can see out," said Madeline LaPlante, 24, visiting from Indianapolis.

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Ray keeps stirring the pot

Nine years after she emerged as a Food Network personality, Rachael Ray shows no signs of slowing

RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

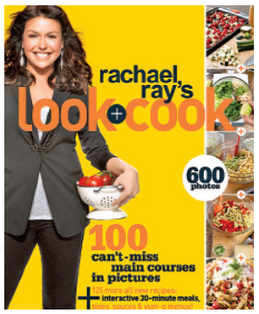
▶ Rachael Ray has a new cookbook out titled, Rachael Ray's Look + Cook.

It's a bit of this and a dash of that that makes Rachael Ray's daytime talk show.

On a recent day of back-to-back tapings, she cooked up a chicken-and-porcini shepherd's pie, chatted with Harry Hamlin and Lisa Rinna about marriage and squeezed in plugs for other parts of her lifestyle empire:

The new cooking show, the new cookbook and the Thanksgiving issue of her magazine.

Nine years after breaking out as a Food Network personality, Ray is an established star who still keeps stirring the pot.



She has 18 cookbooks and an iPhone app. But mostly she has her TV shows. In addition to her talk show, her original 30 Minute Meals is still in production, as is the new Rachael Ray's Week in a Day on the Cooking Channel.

It all adds up to more than 1,300 hours of television since 2001 — or almost two months' worth of around-the-clock Rachael and her exclamations of "Yum-O!"

Repetition clearly hasn't dimmed her enthusiasm. On a recent day of filming at a Manhattan studio made to look like an urban loft, she segued breezily from cooking dishes to dishing about Dancing with the Stars. Young aides in T-shirts printed with "Yum-O" and "EVOO" bustled during breaks to prep the kitchen set. The pace never slowed, even after a broken boot heel forced Ray to hobble around.

"I'm 42 and I feel healthier than I did 10 years ago," she said. "Maybe 52, I'll have more energy than 42."

Ray debuted on the Food Network with 30-Minute Meals in 2001. Viewers warmed to the unpretentious daughter of parents who ran several family-style restaurants on Cape Cod, Mass., before she moved to upstate New York. The self-described "pound puppy" used time-saving ingredients like canned corn. Her food was tasty but not snooty. Her everywoman appeal was fresh for food TV back then, when the biggest stars were professional chefs like Emeril and reality shows based on the perils of cupcake bakers were still a way off.

Her new cookbook, Rachael Ray's Look + Cook, is loaded with pictures and friendly to visual learners. Buyers of the book also will have access to exclusive web videos of Ray cooking the dishes. The videos will show that, yes, her meals really can be made in 30 minutes.

But in the end, she insists that it's not really work for her: "I get to do what I would do on a day off from any other job," she says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Down to earth

- Despite her fame, Ray shows few signs of celebrity-style vanity. She casually tells her studio audience her age and she eats one of her on-air creations, a spinach and egg noodle casserole, with her fingers.

Shepherd's Pie Stuffed Potatoes

Ingredients :

- 6 large russet potatoes
- 45 ml extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 red bell pepper chopped
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 125 ml sour cream
- 15 ml smoked paprika
- 250 ml shredded smoked Gouda cheese
- 500 g ground sirloin
- 250 g button or cremini mushrooms, quartered
- 2 chopped garlic cloves
- 30 ml butter
- 30 ml all-purpose flour
- 375 ml beef stock
- 30 ml spicy Dijon mustard
- 30 ml soy sauce
- 15 ml Worcestershire sauce

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F). On a rimmed baking sheet, roll potatoes in a hearty drizzle of olive oil and some salt. Bake until tender, about 1 hour, then let cool. Switch on the broiler.
2. While potatoes cool, in a medium skillet over medium, heat 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the olive oil. Add bell pepper and half of the onion and saute to soften for 5 minutes, then set aside to cool.
3. When potatoes are cool enough to handle, cut a thin top slice off each potato. In a bowl, combine bell pepper and onion mixture, sour cream, smoked paprika, half of the Gouda, salt and pepper. Scoop flesh from each potato into bowl and mash. Set aside.
4. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium-high, heat remaining 30 ml olive oil. Add ground sirloin and brown for 5 to 6 minutes, stirring occasionally to break up any lumps. Add mushrooms and cook 4 to 5 minutes more.
5. Add remaining onion and garlic and cook for another 5 minutes. Push all of the ingredients to the edge of the pan and add butter to middle of skillet. Sprinkle flour over melted butter and cook for about 1 minute. Whisk in stock, mustard, soy sauce and Worcestershire. Bring up to a bubble, combine with meat mixture, adjust salt and pepper and simmer until thickened, 2 to 3 minutes.
6. Fill potato shells with beef and veggie mixture, then top each of them with reserved mashed potatoes. Transfer to a baking sheet and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Pop potatoes under broiler until cheese is melted and tops are golden brown, 1 to 2 minutes. FROM LOOK AND COOK BY RACHAEL RAY

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Taking it home

Half of Canadians want the option to work from home, poll suggests

JON TATTRIE
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ISTOCK

▶ The work-from-home option can help improve morale.

With summer vacation memories fading in the face of winter's frozen approach, 53 per cent of Canadian workers want a work-from-home option to avoid long commutes and increase productivity, according to a recent Workopolis survey.

Andrea Garson, vice-president of human resources, says giving employees the option to work from home one or two days a week can boost morale, increase productivity and reduce environmental impact.

"It helps people get a sense that they're more in control of their lives," she says from Halifax.

The call for change is driven by technological advances that have made work-from-home more feasible and younger workers who tend to be against long hours at the office in favour of a better work-life balance, Garson says.

"To be competitive in this marketplace, (companies) are going to have to start offering work-from-home," says Garson, who works from home on Wednesdays. She suggests employees shouldn't expect the option from the start, but both sides have to first build up trust.

Peter McAdam, vice-president of employee experience at TD Bank, says working from home is part of its range of flex options. A small number of staff are exclusively based at a home office, but a more common pattern is to work at the office some of the week and from home the rest.

"Like other employers, we're looking to respond to our changing workforce," he says. To get the top talent, especially the top young talent, TD needs to offer the most flexible work packages, he says.

Just knowing the work-from-home option is available improves morale, even if workers don't take it up, McAdam says. "There are a lot of business wins," he says.

Joan Goodman, an executive with TD Bank, works three days a week at the Toronto office and one day a week at her Oakville, Ont., home. "The advantage for me is not having to commute, being around when my kids gets home from school and I also find it incredibly productive," she says. It has also allowed TD to retain a valued employee, rather than lose her because of rigid policies

Five Tips

- 1. Employees should treat the home office as a regular office. No personal visits, no domestic chores. TD Bank employee Joan Goodman says if you wouldn't do it at the head office, don't do it at the home office.
- 2. Pick the right tasks. Goodman says projects requiring quiet concentration are best, but those requiring group meetings are not ideal.
- 3. Keep open communications. Phone, email, instant messaging and Skype can all be deployed to keep a remote employee in close touch with the office.
- 4. Employers should create a work-from-home program so staff can apply for it in a transparent fashion, not on an ad-hoc basis.
- 5. Both sides should mix home days with office days to maintain corporate culture.

"I think some people are better at work-from-home than others and it's something I learned. You have to treat it as a work day."
JOAN GOODMAN

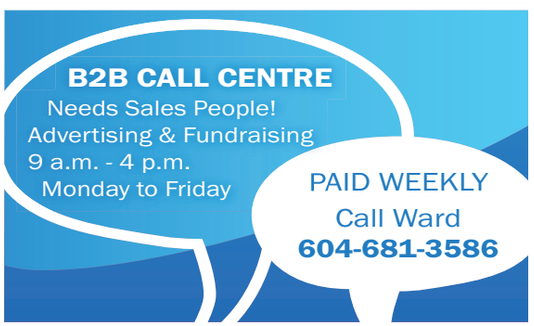
OFF DUTY MISCONDUCT A CAUSE CONCERN

Employees who believe that they are immune from discipline for their conduct away from the office are often sadly mistaken. Where off-duty behaviour becomes cause for an employer's concern, employees ought not to be surprised when it follows them back to their desk. Here are some examples.

- Blog postings made on an employee's own personal time can come back to haunt the employee. Just ask Linda Clark, who lost her job because her employer, a retirement home, came across a blog she wrote with postings that expressed her disdain for the residents and management. It didn't matter that Clark had created and maintained her blog at home or that she intended for it to be private; its connection to the workplace was obvious and any member of the public could view it.
- Pictures or postings on Facebook, MySpace or YouTube are fair game for employers' supervision where indiscriminate content impacts, or potentially impacts, a company's reputation. It seldom matters when the postings were created or even if the employee doesn't access these websites from work. If the content can even be construed as having a connection to the workplace, discipline is often upheld by the courts.
- Allegations of criminal conduct occurring away from the workplace can sometimes amount to cause for dismissal. Philip Kelly unsuccessfully sued Guelph auto parts manufacturer Linamar Corp. for wrongful dismissal after it fired him for cause following publicized but unproven criminal charges of possessing child pornography on his personal computer at home. The court agreed with Linamar because of the potential damage to its reputation.
- Where off-duty conduct creates a serious conflict of interest with the work of the organization, discipline can be upheld. In a notorious Canadian case, a CIBC bank teller was fired after her employer learned that she was living with a convicted bank robber. In this case, actual harm was unnecessary; it was the potential for harm that was sufficient.

"Canadian courts have little tolerance for employees whose habits expose their companies to liabilities. They can be fired — often without notice."

These examples ought to give employees pause. Canadian courts have little tolerance for employees whose habits expose their companies to liabilities. They can be fired — often without notice.



When students learn outside the classroom

RAF BRUSILOW
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"There are things you can do outside of class to develop skills, experience and expand your network but you can also build friendships .... you want to have a balanced approach to your student experience."
GLEN WEPPLER, RYERSON DIRECTOR OF STUDENT COMMUNITY LIFE

Sometimes what you learn outside of the classroom is just as important as what you learn within it.

While the meaty parts of knowledge often take root in the lecture hall, extra-curricular activities not only help you learn crucial life skills but also can make you a more appealing hire.

Post-secondary institutions are also interested in extra-curricular activities because they want to invite students who've shown they are more likely to succeed.

"Don't think of it in terms of getting into university, think of it in terms of skills we all need to be successful in life. Things like being able to work in a team, leadership, those are skills that will serve you well and they're the kinds of things we look for in the admissions process," said Andrew Arida, associate director of enrolment at the University of British Columbia.

Meg O'Mahony, a high school biology teacher at the University of Toronto Schools (UTS), has helped students from her Grade 10 and 11 classes get involved in the Canon Envirothon competition in order to give them experience in the way real-world issues are dealt with.

The extra-curricular program is one of North America's largest high school environmental competitions which challenges students on their problem-solving, teamwork and knowledge skills to deal with problems like a groundwater shortage or long-term river erosion.

"It's a good resume thing but I also see some nice changes in the students themselves. Good general learning in terms of problem solving is the best kind of experience you can get. It's phenomenal what students come up with," O'Mahony said.

Once in university, don't let the classroom be your only destination.

Glen Weppler, director of student community life at Ryerson University, says Ryerson makes it a priority to offer students a wealth of extra-curricular options to expand themselves.

"Our goal is to encourage students to get involved," Weppler said.

Employers tend to look favourably upon leadership and real-world experiences so taking on some meaningful, out-of-classroom commitments can be powerful way to stand out from the crowd.

Since January 2009 at the University of Calgary, new students to the campus have had the option of having all their extra-curricular activities recognized and tracked on an official co-curricular record.

The document includes activities verified by the university such as varsity clubs, student government and volunteer activities and students can apply to have activities which aren't listed included as well.

▶ Extra-curricular activities not only help students learn life skills, they can also make them a more appealing hire.

The co-curricular record also tracks hours spent, making it an ideal way for employers to track a student's experience in a particular activity. "These sorts of things give students really practical skills they can bring to employers," said UCal vice-provost of students Ann Tierney.

Cram-school dreams

Once unknown town redraws lines of success in India • Good test results can propel students up social ladder

The teenage boy, with his gentle smile and scraggle of whiskers, stands in the fading light of the day and talks about the college entrance exam that he is certain will change his life.

His name is Vijay Singh. He has been studying since long before dawn, as he has done every day since he arrived in Kota, India, a low-slung city of high-school dreamers on the edge of India's northern deserts.

Three months ago he left home, effectively dropped out of high school and entered a highly competitive Kota cram school. For eight months he will study — every morning, every night, every day of the week — for a six-hour test. If he does well, it will propel him up the Indian social ladder.

His target is the Joint Entrance Examination, a multiple-choice test that teases young Indians with the golden ticket of this country's educational system: acceptance to the impossibly exclusive Indian Institutes of Technology.

Imagine the entire Ivy League distilled into one small network of colleges. Imagine tens of millions of parents dreaming from their children's birth about the joy of acceptance. Imagine if there was no reliable second tier of science-oriented schools. That is the IIT.

Vijay Singh's mother is illiterate. His father, a retired soldier, never finished high school. His older brother is unemployed. In a country obsessed with status and bloodlines, he is from a caste officially termed an "Other Backward Class." Even in the small towns and ragged villages where the family carved out their lives, they didn't amount to much.

After Kota, he says, all that will change.

Every year, more than 450,000 students take the IIT exam, hoping for entry to the hallowed public engineering institutes scattered across India.

Slightly more than 13,000 passed in 2010, a three per cent success rate that makes Harvard, with its seven per cent acceptance, look like a safety school.

And for generations, there was little surprise about who got in.

But over the past two decades, cracks have developed in India's centuries-old social system, forced open by one of the world's strongest economies.

Today, in a country where 300 million people live on less than $1 a day, the economy is growing at nearly nine per cent and the rich shop for Porsches and Louis Vuitton purses. The number of Indian millionaires jumped by 51 per cent last year, reaching more than 127,000.

A few dalits, as India's lowest-caste "untouchables" are now known, have reached corporate boardrooms.

In many ways, India has become a grand contradiction: a rapidly changing country where social mobility is possible, but still hobbled by deeply ingrained class attitudes.

Out of that contradiction has emerged the modern city of Kota and its biggest industry — cram schools.

Today, an estimated 40,000 students arrive here every year from across India to prepare for the IIT test.

They come because getting into IIT means family status and neighbourhood bragging rights. A degree from the institutes, which charge barely $1,000 per year, can mean a lifetime of good-paying jobs, whether in engineering, software development or banking. IIT, perhaps more than anything else in modern India, has become the ultimate sign of success.

To critics, the cram schools are part of an educational system that leaves IIT students ill-prepared for anything more complex than memorization and prodigious work.

But about one-third of those who pass the IIT exam are believed to pass through Kota.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAURABH DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Every year, more than 450,000 students take the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) exam, hoping for entry to the hallowed public engineering institutes located across India.

Cram school

Kota has more than 100 of them, from fly-by-night, one-teacher operations to marble-floored six-story institutions. It has become synonymous with IIT entry, drilling students in the brutal system of rote memorization at the core of the country's educational system.

Chasing success

Walk up to nearly any student here, and you'll find a story of pressure and ambition.

"Everybody who comes is here to study," says Singh, whose outward gentleness only partly hides the relentlessness of his ambitions.

He comes from a north Indian region best known for bandits and bad soil. He has no desire to return. "The people who come here are the best and I need to compete against the best."

He knows exactly what he would get from a diploma. "If I have been to IIT," he says, "people will look at me with dignity."

So he came to Kota.

A decade ago, this riverside town was known, if at all, for its vast textile mills and high-quality saris. Here power revolved around a handful of executives and the former royal family.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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4 sports

Canucks topple Avs in overtime

- Raymond's OT goal preserves win
- Canucks blew lead late in third
- Daniel Sedin extends points streak

4	3
CANUCKS	AVALANCHE

Mason Raymond's goal 28 seconds into overtime gave the Vancouver a Canucks a 4-3 victory over the Colorado Avalanche last night.

Raymond scored the winner following a faceoff in the Colorado zone as he poke-checked defenceman Jonas Holos and the puck squeezed past Colorado goaltender Peter Budaj.

Raymond's goal salvaged a second point for Vancouver after the Canucks lost a one-goal lead with 1:33 left to play. With Budaj pulled for an extra attacker, Matt Duchene beat Roberto Luongo to send the game to overtime.

The Canucks (4-3-2) have claimed nine of a possible 10 points at Rogers Arena this season. The Avalanche (4-4-1) lost their third straight

Jeff Tambellini, Ryan Kesler and Peter Schaefer, scored for the Canucks.

Tambellini and Kesler's goals were their second in two games. Meanwhile, Daniel Sedin's assist on Tambellini's goal extended his season-opening points streak to nine games — tied for the longest in the NHL.

David Jones and Daniel Winnik also scored for Colorado. Avalanche defenceman John-Michael Liles established a record last night for an NHL season-opening points streak by a defenceman.

Liles recorded a point for the ninth straight game as he assisted on Winnik's second-period goal. The 29-year-old Indianapolis native surpassed the previous mark of eight set by Philip Kuba of the Ottawa Senators in 2008-09. THE CANADIAN PRESS

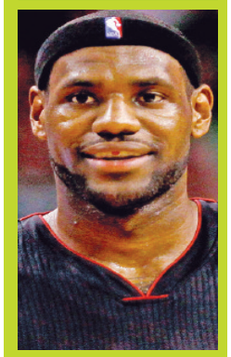
Giving props

In a pre-game ceremony, the Canucks made first captain Orland Kurtenbach the inaugural inductee into their new ring of honour.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Andrew Alberts of the Vancouver Canucks, left, checks Colorado Avalanche forward Brandon Yip last night.

Quoted



"I'm excited about this new start. I'm excited about this season. I'm excited about this team and this franchise. I'm excited to get it going in a city where (I've) struggled."

LEBRON JAMES BEFORE HIS HEAT'S SEASON OPENER AGAINST THE CELTICS LAST NIGHT. JAMES HAD 31 POINTS, BUT HIS TEAM LOST 88-80. THE HEAT SCORED JUST NINE POINTS IN THEIR FIRST QUARTER OF THE SEASON AND FELL BEHIND THE CELTICS BY 15 POINTS AT HALFTIME.

Scan code for more sports

Opinion

RORY BOYLEN
THE HOCKEY NEWS

SOME REASONS FOR HOPE

The Vancouver Canucks have nearly a week off to examine what's been going right and wrong for the club after a mediocre start to the season.

With Stanley Cup aspirations following them wherever they go, Vancouver has seen some promising performances and trends they can build on as they get set for November, a month they went 7-5 in a year ago.

Cory Schneider: He's played approximately 200 minutes less than starter Roberto Luongo, but Schneider has been pushing every second of the way.

Impressive in wins over Carolina and Minnesota and in relief in another game against the Wild, Schneider's stingy 0.86 GAA and godly .968 SV% are so far giving the Canucks reason to rest Luongo.

It's common knowledge that overworked goalies have been unable to carry teams in the post-season lately, so if Schneider can keep ringing up the wins, Vancouver won't lose a step by giving Luongo a night off and may even be better for it in April.

Daniel Sedin: This doesn't at all fall under any surprise category, but it's nice to see Daniel with the team scoring lead. From Day 1, he was labelled the goal-scorer of the twin duo and if not for an injury last season, would have given Henrik a run for the Hart.

And while Henrik isn't falling off, he hasn't scored a goal yet because Daniel is more than capable of tickling the twine all night every night.

Not only does Vancouver have two Hart Trophy candidates in the lineup, but with their increased production over the past year, Daniel could even take a run at the Rocket Richard.

Power Play: The Canucks had one of the best offences in the league last season, but less-than-stellar outings against Los Angeles, Florida, Minnesota and Chicago has left this year's team averaging 2.5 goals per game, tied for 22nd in the league.

The power play, however, is clipping along at a slightly better pace than last year, converting on seven of 32 chances for a 21.9 percent rate: seventh-best.

Power plays are so important in today's NHL: Look at last year's Montreal Canadiens who had the league's 25th-ranked offence, but the second-best power play.

Would they have made the post-season without the 57 goals they tallied with the man advantage? Likely not.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Tampa Bay	8	5	2	1	0	27	27	11	2-1-1-0	3-1-0-0	5-2-1-0	L1
d-Toronto	8	5	2	1	0	23	19	11	3-1-1-0	2-1-0-0	5-2-1-0	W1
d-Pittsburgh	9	5	3	1	0	27	20	11	2-3-0-0	3-0-1-0	5-3-1-0	L1
Montreal	8	5	2	1	0	20	18	11	2-1-1-0	3-1-0-0	5-2-1-0	W2
Washington	8	5	3	0	0	23	21	10	4-1-0-0	1-2-0-0	5-3-0-0	W1
NY Islanders	8	4	2	1	1	26	23	10	2-0-0-1	2-2-1-0	4-2-1-1	L1
NY Rangers	7	4	2	1	0	22	20	9	1-1-1-0	3-1-0-0	4-2-1-0	W3
Philadelphia	9	4	4	1	0	25	24	9	3-3-0-0	1-1-1-0	4-4-1-0	W1
Boston	6	4	2	0	0	18	11	8	1-2-0-0	3-0-0-0	4-2-0-0	L1
Carolina	7	4	3	0	0	21	21	8	1-0-0-0	3-3-0-0	4-3-0-0	W1
Atlanta	8	3	4	1	0	23	29	7	1-2-0-0	2-2-1-0	3-4-1-0	L3
Ottawa	9	3	5	1	0	21	28	7	2-2-0-0	1-3-1-0	3-5-1-0	W1
Buffalo	10	3	6	1	0	27	30	7	0-4-1-0	2-3-0-0	3-5-1-0	L1
Florida	7	3	4	0	0	18	15	6	2-1-0-0	1-3-0-0	3-4-0-0	L1
New Jersey	9	2	6	1	0	15	30	5	0-4-1-0	2-2-0-0	2-6-1-0	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Nashville	8	5	0	3	0	21	17	13	2-0-3-0	3-0-0-0	5-0-3-0	W2
d-Los Angeles	8	6	2	0	0	25	19	12	3-0-0-0	3-2-0-0	6-2-0-0	W2
d-Calgary	9	6	3	0	0	26	21	12	4-1-0-0	2-2-0-0	6-3-0-0	W3
Detroit	7	5	1	0	1	23	18	11	3-0-0-1	2-1-0-0	5-1-0-1	W4
Chicago	10	5	4	1	0	29	28	11	3-3-0-0	2-1-1-0	5-4-1-0	L2
Dallas	8	5	3	0	0	26	22	10	2-2-0-0	3-1-0-0	5-3-0-0	L2
St. Louis	7	4	1	1	1	19	14	10	4-0-0-0	0-1-1-1	4-1-1-1	W2
Columbus	8	5	3	0	0	20	22	10	3-2-0-0	2-1-0-0	5-3-0-0	W2
Vancouver	9	4	3	0	2	24	24	10	4-0-0-1	0-3-0-1	4-3-0-2	W2
Anaheim	10	4	5	0	1	26	35	9	2-0-0-1	2-5-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
Colorado	9	4	4	1	0	25	29	9	1-2-0-0	3-2-1-0	4-4-1-0	L3
Minnesota	8	3	3	0	2	23	23	8	2-2-0-1	1-1-0-1	3-3-0-1	L2
San Jose	7	3	3	1	0	19	21	7	1-2-0-0	2-1-1-0	3-3-1-0	L1
Phoenix	8	2	3	3	0	21	29	7	1-1-2-0	1-2-1-0	2-3-3-0	L3
Edmonton	7	2	4	0	1	15	21	5	2-2-0-0	0-2-1-0	2-4-0-1	L5

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Toronto 3 Florida 1
Philadelphia 6 Buffalo 3
Ottawa 5 Phoenix 2
Calgary 5 Edmonton 4 (SO)
Anaheim 5 Dallas 2
Vancouver 4 Colorado 3 (OT)
Monday's results
Montreal 3 Phoenix 2 (OT)
Columbus 2 Philadelphia 1
Los Angeles 3 Minnesota 2 (SO)
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Atlanta at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
New Jersey at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

CANUCKS 4, AVALANCHE 3 (OT)

First Period
1. Colorado, Jones 3 (Hejduk, Hannan) 4:28
2. Vancouver, Tambellini 2 (D.Sedin, H.Sedin) 9:10
Penalties — McLeod Col, Glass Vcr (fighting) 3:34, Van Der Gulik Col (interference) 9:51, Stastny Col (tripping) 16:54, Kesler Vcr (holding stick) 17:41.
Second Period
3. Colorado, Winnik 3 (O'Reilly, Quincey) 4:40
4. Vancouver, Kesler 3 (Erhoff, Edler) 7:31 (pp)
Penalties — Dupuis Col (charging) 6:24, Bieksa Vcr (interference) 15:12.
Third Period
5. Vancouver, Schaefer 1 (Ehrhoff) 4:58
6. Colorado, Duchene 2 (Hejduk, Stewart) 18:27
Penalties — None.
Overtime
7. Vancouver, Raymond 3 :28
Penalties —None.
Shots on goal by:

Colorado	8	16	15	0—39
Vancouver	16	8	5	1—30

Goal (shots-saves) — Colorado: Budaj (L, 1-0-1); Vancouver: Luongo (W, 2-3-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Colorado: 0-2; Vancouver: 1-3. **Att.** — 18,860 at Vancouver.

FLAMES 5, OILERS 4 (SO)

First Period
1. Calgary, Morrison 2 (Giordano, Bourque) 5:52 (pp)
2. Edmonton, Foster 1 (Paajarvi, Whitney) 8:38 (pp)
3. Calgary, Bouwmeester 1 (Tanguay, White) 19:40 (pp)
Penalties — Brule Edm (hooking) 5:28, Iginla Cal (tripping) 8:08, Paajarvi Edm (holding stick) 19:28, Gagner Edm, Jokinen Cal (fighting) 19:45.
Second Period
4. Calgary, Glencross 2 (Backlund) 2:02
5. Calgary, Morrison 3 9:48 (sh)
6. Edmonton, Eberle 3 (Peckham) 19:43
Penalties — Bourque Cal (holding) 3:34, Staios Cal (interference) 9:40, Fraser Edm (instigating, fighting, misconduct), Giordano Cal (fighting) 12:12, Strudwick Edm, Jackman Cal (fighting) 16:37, Peckham Edm (high-sticking) 17:16.
Third Period
7. Edmonton, Paajarvi 2 (Cogliano, Whitney) 6:52
8. Edmonton, Gilbert 2 (Penner, Hemsky) 9:19
Penalties — Brule Edm, Glencross Cal (roughing) 10:16, Peckham Edm (high-sticking) 16:44.
Overtime
No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Shootout
Calgary wins 1-0
Edmonton (0) — Hemsky, miss; Eberle, miss; Penner, miss; Calgary (1) — Hagman, miss; Tanguay, goal.
Shots on goal by

Edmonton	8	6	17	1—32
Calgary	12	13	10	4—39

Goal — Edmonton: Khabibulin (SOL,2-4-1); Calgary: Kiprusoff (W,5-3-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Edmonton: 1-3; Calgary: 2-5. **Att.** — 19,289 (19,289) at Calgary.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Stamkos, TB	8	7	15
Sharp, Chi	8	3	11
Hossa, Chi	7	4	11
D.Sedin, Vcr	7	4	11
Crosby, Pgh	6	5	11
Getzlaf, Ana	3	8	11
C.Stewart, Col	5	5	10

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Exercised their 2011 contract options on C Ramon Castro and LHP Matt Thornton. Released RHP Carlos Torres.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Named Alan Trammell bench coach, Don Baylor hitting coach, Eric Young first-base coach and Charles Nagy pitching coach.

BASKETBALL

NBA

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Exercised the contract option on general manager John Hammond and signed coach Scott Skiles through the 2012-13 season.

FOOTBALL

NFL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Fined Minnesota coach Brad Childress $35,000 for criticizing officials and disclosing confidential conversations with the officiating department.
CINCINNATI BENGALS—Placed CB Adam "Pacman" Jones on injured reserve. Signed TE J.P. Foschi. Waived TE Daniel Coats.
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Waived RB James Davis and WR Yamon Figurs. Claimed RB Thomas Clayton off waivers from New England. Signed WR Demetrius Williams.
DENVER BRONCOS—Signed DT Le Kevin Smith.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Placed OT Eben Britton on injured reserve. signed OT Erik Pears.
NEW YORK JETS—Signed LB Josh Mauga from the practice squad. Waived DT Howard Green. Signed LB Kenwin Cummings to the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Signed RB Quinton Ganther. Released LB Chris McCoy from the practice squad. Signed OT Breno Giacomini and RB Chris Henry to the practice squad.

CFL

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS—Added QB Justin Goltz to the practice roster.

HOCKEY

NHL

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Assigned G Ondrej Pavelec to Chicago (AHL) for conditioning. Recalled D Noah Welch and G Peter Mannino from Chicago.
BUFFALO SABRES—Called up F Luke Adam from Portland (AHL).
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Recalled F Jiri Tlusty from Charlotte (AHL).
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Assigned D Nate Guenin to Springfield (AHL).
MONTREAL CANADIENS—Assigned F Dany Masse from Hamilton (AHL) to Wheeling (ECHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Recalled F Blair Jones from Norfolk (AHL).
WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Recalled D Brian Fahey from Hershey (AHL).

AHL

MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS—Announced G Chet Pickard has been reassigned to Cincinnati (ECHL) and G Jeremy Smith has been recalled from Cincinnati.
SYRACUSE CRUNCH—Signed F Gabe Gauthier.

ECHL

IDAHO STEELHEADS—Traded D Lane Caffaro to Ontario for future considerations.
UTAH GRIZZLIES—Acquired D Nick Tuzzolino from Wheeling for future considerations

SOCCER

MLS

COLUMBUS CREW—Signed G Chase Harrison.

CFL

WEEK 18

EAST DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
y-Montreal	16	11	5	0	480	415	22
x-Hamilton	16	9	7	0	436	372	18
x-Toronto	16	8	8	0	313	401	16
Winnipeg	16	4	12	0	419	434	8

WEST DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
y-Calgary	16	11	5	0	536	403	22
x-Saskatchewan	16	9	7	0	449	442	18
Edmonton	16	6	10	0	343	501	12
B.C.	16	6	10	0	420	428	12

x — clinched playoff berth.
y — clinched division title.
Friday's games
(All times Eastern)
Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Hamilton at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Saturday's game
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 7 p.m.
Sunday's game
Saskatchewan at B.C., 5 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	TD	C	FG	S	Pts
Maver, Cal	0	60	31	3	156
McCallum, BC	0	29	40	6	155
Duval, Mtl	0	37	30	12	139
DeAngelis, Ham	0	39	31	3	135
Congi, Sask	0	41	26	2	121
Prefontaine, Edm-Tor	0	28	24	8	108
Cates, Sask	15	0	0	0	90
Shaw, Tor	0	18	19	6	81
Palardy, Ham-Wpg	0	18	16	7	73
T.Edwards, Wpg	12	0	0	0	72
Bryant, Cal	11	0	0	0	66
x-Cobb, Ham	10	2	0	0	62
x-Green, Mtl	10	2	0	0	62
Lewis, Cal	9	0	0	0	54
Robertson, BC	9	0	0	0	54
Bruce, Ham	8	0	0	0	48
Serna, Wpg	0	20	8	4	48
x-Richardson, Mtl	7	2	0	0	44
Boyd, Tor	7	0	0	0	42

SOCCER

MLS PLAYOFFS

SEMIFINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
(All times Eastern)
New York vs. San Jose
Saturday's game
First Leg
New York at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Columbus vs. Colorado
Tomorrow's game
First Leg
Columbus at Colorado, 9 p.m.
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Los Angeles vs. Seattle
Sunday's game
First Leg
Los Angeles at Seattle, 8 p.m.
Real Salt Lake vs. FC Dallas
Saturdays' game
First Leg
Real Salt Lake at Dallas, 5 p.m.

ENGLAND

LEAGUE CUP

Fourth Round
Yesterday's results
Birmingham 1, Brentford 1 (Birmingham advances 4-3 on penalty shootout)
Ipswich 3, Northampton 1
Leicester 1, West Bromwich Albion 4
Manchester United 3, Wolverhampton 2
Wigan 2, Swansea 0

SCOTLAND

LEAGUE CUP

Quarter-final
Yesterday's results
Aberdeen 2, Falkirk 1
Motherwell 1, Dundee United 0

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	1	0	1.000	—
New Jersey	0	0	.000	½
New York	0	0	.000	½
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	½
Toronto	0	0	.000	½

SOUTHEAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Charlotte	0	0	.000	—
Orlando	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—
Miami	0	1	.000	½

CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
Cleveland	0	0	.000	—
Detroit	0	0	.000	—
Indiana	0	0	.000	—
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	—

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	0	0	.000	—
Houston	0	0	.000	—
Memphis	0	0	.000	—
New Orleans	0	0	.000	—
San Antonio	0	0	.000	—

NORTHWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	1	0	1.000	—
Denver	0	0	.000	½
Minnesota	0	0	.000	½
Oklahoma City	0	0	.000	½
Utah	0	0	.000	½

PACIFIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	0	0	.000	—
L.A. Clippers	0	0	.000	—
L.A. Lakers	0	0	.000	—
Sacramento	0	0	.000	—
Phoenix	0	1	.000	½

Last night's results
Boston 88 Miami 80
Portland 106 Phoenix 92
Houston at L.A. Lakers
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Boston at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Detroit at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
New York at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Indiana at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Utah at Denver, 9 p.m.
Houston at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Washington at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

MLB

2010 POSTSEASON

WORLD SERIES

(All times Eastern)
Tonight's game
Texas (Lee 12-9) at San Francisco (Lincecum 16-10), 7:57 p.m.
Tomorrow's game
Texas (Wilson 15-8) at San Francisco (Cain 13-11), 7:57 p.m.
Saturday's game
San Francisco (Sanchez 13-9) at Texas (Lewis 12-13), 6:57 p.m.
Sunday's game
San Francisco (Bumgarner 7-6) at Texas (Hunter 13-4), 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 1
x-San Francisco at Texas, 7:57 p.m.
x - if necessary

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	5	1	0	.833	159	101
New England	5	1	0	.833	177	136
Miami	3	3	0	.500	111	135
Buffalo	0	6	0	.000	121	198

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	5	2	0	.714	199	117
Houston	4	2	0	.667	153	167
Indianapolis	4	2	0	.667	163	125
Jacksonville	3	4	0	.429	130	209

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	5	1	0	.833	137	82
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	149	129
Cincinnati	2	4	0	.333	132	141
Cleveland	2	5	0	.286	118	142

WEST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	4	2	0	.667	150	112
Oakland	3	4	0	.429	179	165
San Diego	2	5	0	.286	177	149
Denver	2	5	0	.286	138	199

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	175	153
Washington	4	3	0	.571	130	133
Philadelphia	4	3	0	.571	172	157
Dallas	1	5	0	.167	137	152

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	5	2	0	.714	169	133
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	98	128
New Orleans	4	3	0	.571	147	138
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	75	130

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	4	3	0	.571	126	114
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	167	136
Minnesota	2	4	0	.333	111	116
Detroit	1	5	0	.167	146	140

WEST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	4	2	0	.667	120	107
Arizona	3	3	0	.500	98	160
St. Louis	3	4	0	.429	120	131
San Francisco	1	6	0	.143	113	162

WEEK 7

Byes: Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, N.Y. Jets
Monday's result
N.Y. Giants 41 Dallas 35
Sunday's results
Atlanta 39 Cincinnati 32
Baltimore 37 Buffalo 34 (OT)
Carolina 23 San Francisco 20
Cleveland 30 New Orleans 17
Kansas City 42 Jacksonville 20
New England 23 San Diego 20
Oakland 59 Denver 14
Pittsburgh 23 Miami 22
Seattle 22 Arizona 10
Tampa Bay 18 St. Louis 17
Tennessee 37 Philadelphia 19
Washington 17 Chicago 14
Green Bay 28 Minnesota 24

WEEK 8

Byes: N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland
Sunday's games
(All times Eastern)
Denver vs. San Francisco at London, 1 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Carolina at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Miami at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Minnesota at New England, 4:15 p.m.
Seattle at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at New Orleans, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 1
Houston at Indianapolis, 8:30 p.m.

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2011 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Outdoorsman shown.§

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2010 Ram 3500 Crew Cab Laramie 4x2 shown.§

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- Chevy makes a big small-car move with Cruze, its quietest compact ever
- Roomier than its predecessor, it offers a big-car feel on the road

▶ The 2011 Chevrolet Cruze LTZ offers up a lot of torque.

Chevy Cruze is made for cruising

MICHAEL GOETZ
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

I'm a little worried about the spelling department over at GM. Who authorized Cruze over Cruise? But I'm not going to let it get me down, because this is a great little car. Well, actually, not so little…

Cruze is one of the bigger "compact" contenders, a segment that includes Toyota Corolla, Honda Civic and Ford Focus.

Not only is it way roomier inside than its predecessor (Chevrolet Cobalt), its demeanor is more like that of a larger and more upscale vessel.

All this became apparent moments after we drove off with this Cruze LTZ test vehicle.

The top-shelf LTZ model lists for $24,780 and is packing all the goodies in the Cruze catalogue, such as sport suspension, remote starter, Bluetooth, On Star with "directions and connections," USB port, 17-inch wheels and nine-speaker stereo.

But even the base LS ($14,995) has lots of standard kit: 6-speed manual transmission, stability and traction control, ABS, power windows and locks, and 10 air bags (but no a/c).

Only LS models feature the 136-hp 1.8-litre I4 engine. LT, LTZ and an upcoming super-efficient Eco model, feature a nifty and all-new turbo 1.4-litre I4, with variable valve timing and variable flow oil pump, producing 138 hp and 148 lb-ft of torque. (Unlike Ford, GM's new turbo does not feature direct injection.)

A big console separates the two front seats to impart a "twin cockpit" theme.

The two-tone leather seats hug your butt in good way, the leather-wrapped steering wheel is irresistible to fondle, and the burnished aluminum trim throughout the interior is easy on the eyes.

And things are refined and quiet. The new electric speed-sensitive steering system has a "natural" feel, and combined with a taut chassis, the Cruze is, well, made for cruising.

The only dissenting thoughts are that the Cruze could have been a bit more visually arresting and given us more back-seat knee room.

Multi-cultural

Cruze may be brand new to North America, but it is a well-traveled citizen of the world.

- **Currently sold** in more than 60 countries, it is easily Chevrolet's best-selling nameplate globally.
- **It's manufactured** in the U.S., China, India, Russia, South Korea and Kazakhstan.
- **The architecture** (Delta II) under Cruze was developed by GM's Korean arm, Daewoo, with refinement by its European arm, Opel.
- **The Korean version** of Cruze (called Lacetti) actually hit the streets back in 2009, while the European-market Cruze and its Opel equivalent (Astra) hit the streets in 2009.

5 drive

Up and down

Re-Dymaxion
Architect Norman Foster has recreated the historic three-wheeler Dymaxion designed by his mentor, Buckminster Fuller.

BMW drivers
BMW drivers are the most likely to be obnoxious on the road, according to a survey of 3,000 motorists conducted by gocompare.com.
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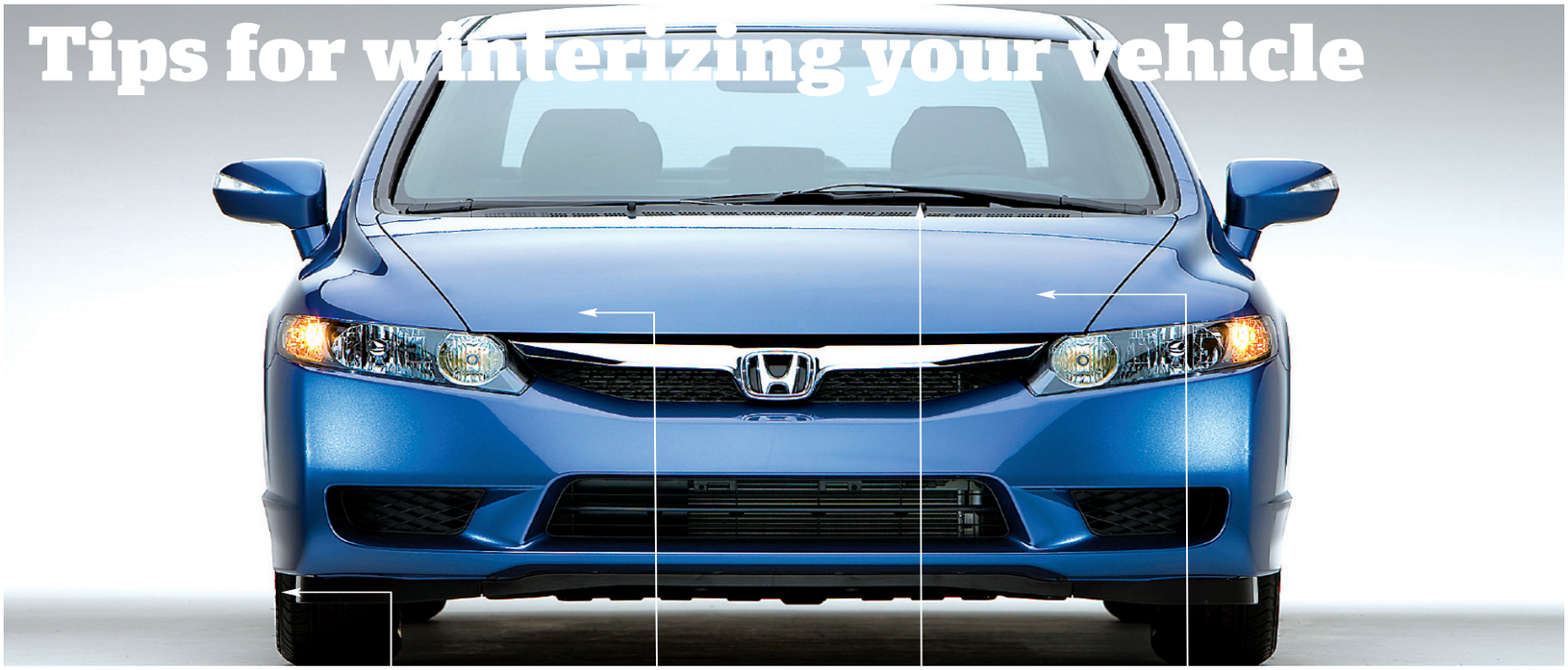
Tips for winterizing your vehicle



With summer in the rear-view mirror and Jack Frost knocking at the door, it's time to think about winterizing your car — before you see the first snowflakes falling. Here are some winterizing tips from Bill Hume, vice-president of Hankook Tire Canada, and Henry Blumenthal, chief underwriter with TD Insurance.

NEWS CANADA

Invest in winter tires.
Consider investing in winter tires or replacing your all-seasons. Worn, bald or badly aligned or balanced tires can mean accidents on ice, rain or snow, says Blumenthal. By paying just a few more dollars, you will be saving in the long term. In addition, winter tires are mandatory in some provinces.

Change your oil.
The change in seasonal temperatures may also dictate changing to a thinner viscosity engine oil to more efficiently lubricate moving parts in colder conditions, says Hume. Check your car's owner manual for fluid recommendations.

Check your wiper blades.
Typically winter means reduced visibility, says Blumenthal. Check your wiper blades and invest in winter windshield washer fluid — it won't freeze when you need it the most.

Check your battery.
With cold weather comes increased power demands: defrosters, windshield wipers and heating systems can really take a toll on your car battery, says Hume. If you notice that your vehicle's headlights get brighter once you start the engine, more extensive battery tests may be needed.

A few more tips:

- **Blumenthal:** Pack an emergency kit for your trunk, including items you would need if you were stranded, such as blankets, candles and a first-aid kit.
- **Hume:** Stay alert, slow down and stay in control — the three key elements of safe winter driving.

TRIED AND TRUE TIPS AS FALL FREEZES OVER

Auto Pilot

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE@METROEWS.CA

MINI
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You see some scary things around Halloween time. Witches, warlocks, werewolves, and, worst of all, vehicles of those who are oblivious to the pending doom of winter. You can only shudder, and pray for their survival.

But it doesn't have to be that way. With a little foresight, your vehicle can stride into frigid climes with confidence and strength, like Lady Gaga heading into an audition for You Think You Can Dance?

Since most motorists are more than familiar with the items on our winter checklist, we offer them here only in the spirit of a gentle reminder. When the temperature drops a bit more, we'll bring out the cattle prod.

Under body oil spraying
As pleasurable as this may sound to have done to your own body, do not accompany your vehicle into the spray booth — it distracts the technicians.

Wiper health
Your wipers get overworked in winter, and are often the only things keeping youn on the road and not in the ditch. Get new ones, preferably heavier ones designed for winter.

Battery health
Your battery also tends to get overworked in winter. If it's more than four years old, it should be checked, and by that we mean, "load tested" by a technician.

Wiper fluid
Obviously you need lots of this stuff, and in a winter blend, which doesn't freeze. Canadian Club doesn't freeze either, but it's a poor, and expensive substitute. Spit is even more useless.

Engine coolent flush and replacement.

ISTOCK IMAGES

▶ Track down your ice scraper before winter shows its wrath.

Modern coolants last years longer than their predecessors, so you don't need to have this done every fall or winter, but at least have it checked for strength, cleanliness, and level. (I'm too close to a colonoscopy appointment to consider making light of anything to do with flushing.)

Find the ice scraper
If you can't remember where you put your scraper last spring, get a new one right away. You'll need it sooner than you think. Once Halloween is past, winter can come fast.

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GS model shown

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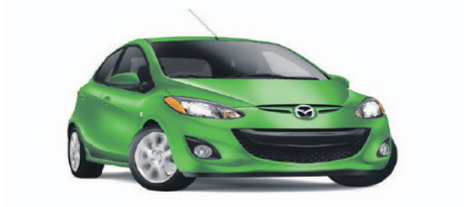

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*1.9% APR Purchase Financing for 48 months is available on new 2011 Mazda2. Based on a representative agreement using a price of $15,390 with a financed amount of $15,000 at a rate of 1.9% APR, the cost of borrowing for a 48-month term is $590, monthly payment is $325, total finance obligation is $15,590. Price includes freight and PDI of $1,395. Taxes are extra and required at the time of purchase. ♦No payments for 90 days applies to purchase finance offers on new 2011 Mazda2. No interest charges will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this 60-day period, interest accrues and the purchaser will repay principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract, commencing 90 days after contract date. **Starting from price for the new 2011 Mazda2 GX (B5BX51AA00) is $15,390 including freight and PDI of $1,395. As shown MSRP for the 2011 Mazda2 GS (B5SB51AA00) is $19,590 including freight and PDI. †Estimated fuel economy on the Mazda2 GX/GS 5MT. Actual results may vary. For Purchase/Finance/Lease – $75 max. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order may be necessary. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid until November 1, 2010. Prices subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.

Nissan's toughest truck

Last-generation Pathfinder offered reliable capability
Truck owners enjoyed power, comfort and style

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Combining decades of 4x4 truck expertise, real-world capability and a luxurious and refined ride, the last-generation Nissan Pathfinder was popular with Canadian families as an SUV that wasn't afraid to roll up its sleeves and get dirty.

On sale from 1996 until 2004, the last-generation Pathfinder was eventually replaced for the 2005 model year. In 2001, Nissan updated and facelifted their ute, adding new styling cues and power from a new engine.

The post-2001 Pathfinder will be the main focus of this review– though much of the information applies to all models.

Pathfinders built after 2001 got between 240 and 250 horsepower from a 3.5 litre V6 which is highly acclaimed in the owners community. Most say the engine is plenty peppy, comfortable towing, and relatively decent on fuel, too.

Transmission choices included a four-speed automatic or a five-speed manual, and a low-range equipped 4WD system with either push-button or lever-actuation was standard. Note that the manual transmission was eventually discontinued.

The specs

- **MODEL** 1996 to 2004 Nissan Pathfinder
- **VEHICLE TYPE** 4x4 SUV
- **APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE** $2,000 to $13,000

What owners like

Last-generation Pathfinder owners typically rave about the looks, power, ride quality and comfort levels of their machines. Off-road prowess, noise levels and overall driving confidence are highly rated, too.

What owners hate

Common last-generation Pathfinder complaints tend to centre around limited head and legroom, and a 'slippery' rear-end in two-wheel drive on wet or snowy surfaces. Finally, numerous owners gripe about having to feed their Pathfinders pricier premium fuel.

Common issues

On a test-drive, be sure to scrutinize the condition of the used Pathfinder candidate's leather seating (if equipped) for rips and tears. Ensure proper and relatively quick operation of all power windows, the CD player, and especially, the CD changer on higher-end models.

Be certain the instruments all illuminate and function properly, and the air conditioning blows cold within a few moments of being turned on.

Be sure the 4x4 system's various modes can be easily engaged and disengaged as explained in the owner's manual, too.

Have the underside of your used Pathfinder candidate inspected exhaustively for any signs of excessive rust, dents, off-road damage, leaks or holes. Differentials and axles should be inspected visually, as should brake lines, fuel lines and suspension components. If the Pathfinder you're considering was formerly off-roaded carelessly or neglected, this is the time to check for potential problems.

The verdict

A clean and well cared-for Pathfinder should prove a rewarding driving machine both on the road and off. Shoppers who find their ideal Pathfinder candidate will likely join a happy and proud community of Nissan truck owners.

SUBMITTED

▶ The post-2001 Pathfinder comes in a five-speed manual and a four-speed automatic.

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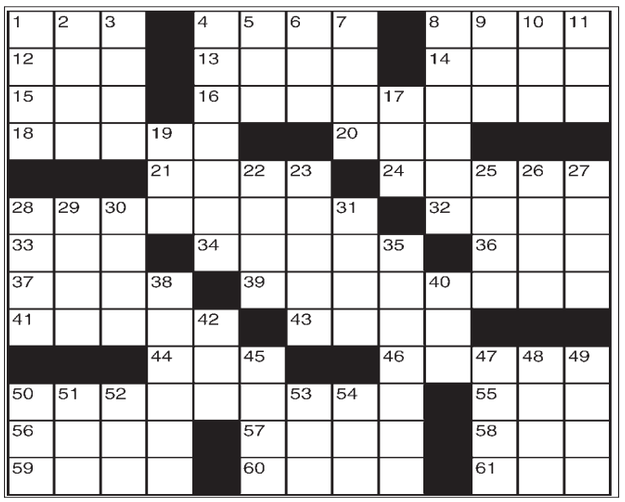
Crossword



Across
1 Craze
4 Touch
8 Exposed
12 Call — day
13 Legal worker, for short
14 Grad
15 Doughnut shop qty.
16 Steakhouse entrees
18 Last letter
20 Wapiti
21 Historic times
24 Doc
28 Workplace for TV's Det. Mac Taylor
32 Puerto —
33 Old nuke org.
34 "Mean Girls" actress
36 Put on
37 Bridge coup
39 Central or Mountain, e.g.
41 Church council
43 Contemptible
44 Floral garland
46 — Hold 'Em
50 Paperback Western, often
55 Trench
56 Mid-month date
57 Greet silently
58 Took a meal
59 Admonisher's word
60 Scored 100 on
61 — Kippur

Down
1 Loyal pooch
2 Teensy bit
3 Stun
4 Garb
5 Tavern
6 Swiss canton
7 Domesticated
8 Popular game show host Bob
9 Foreman foe
10 Massage
11 Type squares
17 Freddy Krueger's street
19 Jewel
22 Oodles
23 Master, in old India
25 Queen of Carthage
26 PC picture
27 Scoop holder
28 Mama — Elliot
29 Depend (on)
30 "— see clearly now, ..."
31 Crimson Tide
35 Got snug and cozy
38 Harass
40 Last letter
42 Hideaway
45 Corn Belt state
47 MRI forerunner
48 Car
49 Rose feature
50 Accomplished
51 Altar affirmative
52 Chaps
53 Carpet cleaner, for short
54 Cain's mom

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

2			4					
4		3		6	2			1
	6	9	8					
						3	1	
1		2				9		8
	5	8						
					8	7	9	
9			5	7		1		2
					6			5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	6	2	1	3	9	4	7	8
7	3	4	2	6	8	5	9	1
9	1	8	4	5	7	3	2	6
1	4	7	8	2	3	6	5	9
8	5	6	9	7	4	1	3	2
2	9	3	5	1	6	8	4	7
3	8	5	6	9	2	7	1	4
4	7	9	3	8	1	2	6	5
6	2	1	7	4	5	9	8	3

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Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Pee Wee, Wishing you a Very Happy Birthday on Oct 27th. You are the apple of my life, and the sunshine in my smile. You're the BEST daughter a Mom could ask for. Loving you forever and ever!
MOM

Kitten breath, Love you babe from puppy face.
XOXOXO

Oh please stay with me Diana! My heart is filled with recent Mexico memories & you always deliver the parts to my heart! Let's continue to travel down the UofA - LRT road together. I know I like to stir the pot. I'm pretty sure you are the only one that will have me. At least that is what my friends at Timmies tell me! Let me buy you that beautiful diamond ring. I promise to be good.
LOVE, YOUR GRANTY WAANTY!

Today 10°/7° Variable
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Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
With Saturn moving slowly but relentlessly through the partnership area of your chart you must expect the occasional clash of egos. Think of it as a test to see how you react.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You may feel a bit run down today but that is to be expected seeing as how hard you have been pushing yourself in recent weeks. Maybe it would be wise to cut back on your commitments a bit.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 A creative activity has ground to a halt and no matter how hard you try you can't seem to get it moving again. Take the hint and leave it for a while. Maybe it's just that you're overtaxed.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Forget about personal issues today and focus on your material situation. Are you earning enough money? Are you happy with what you possess? If not it may be time for a change of direction. What can you do to kick-start your career?

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Travel plans may be disrupted today, so don't promise others that you will be at a certain place at a certain time because it may not be possible.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Has your golden touch deserted you? Maybe it has, for a while, but don't make a big issue of it because luck, like everything else in life, goes through recurring phases.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 There have been times of late when you felt a bit lost, as if you were not quite sure where you belonged. Saturn in your sign is certainly taking away some of your anchors but your foundations are still strong.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You have a tendency to fear the worst and with Saturn moving through the most sensitive area of your chart your anxieties have a mind of their own.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It may seem as if someone has turned against you but don't be too sure. According to the planets they are still as loyal as ever but they need to juggle their commitments.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
No one does tough as well as Capricorn and cosmic activity in the career area of your chart means you'll get both jeers and cheers over the next 24 hours.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
All your doubts and fears will be swept away when Mars moves into one of the more positive areas of your chart One particular friend will inspire you to be amazing.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Don't give away too many secrets. You may like to gossip but if you say too much about other people today you may accidentally say too much about yourself as well.
SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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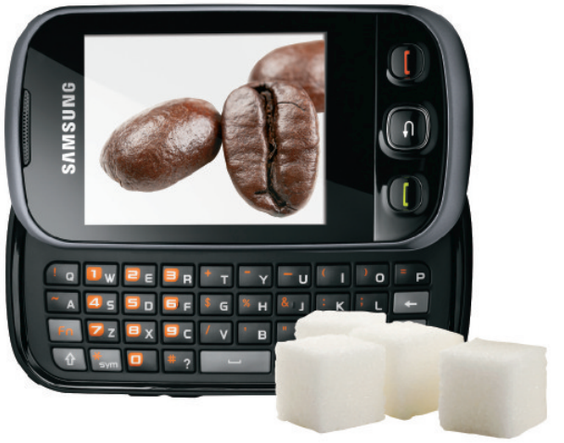

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